

THE PILGRIM

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No. 1

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from
fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

GOD, OUR REFUGE

Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come;
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of Thy throne,
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight,
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night,
Before the rising sun.

Thy word commands our flesh to dust,
"Return, ye sons of men!"
All nations rose from earth at first,
And turn to earth again.

The busy tribes of flesh and blood,
With all their lives and cares,
Are carried downward with the flood,
And lost in following years.

Isaac Watts

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NEW YEAR'S THOUGHTS

When we were boys, we used to talk about what it would be like in the eighties or nineties, and now we know. In any age, to be alive is a priceless privilege, a gift from God. Life is the best of God's gifts to us. How are we using it? **A giver has an interest in how his gift is being used.** God has that interest in our use of His gift of life in 1999.

In one sense, life is time and opportunity. Opportunity implies choice and responsibility. These are serious words. Free choice is the ultimate freedom. The animals don't have it. Neither, in some ways, do prisoners, children of troubled homes, or victims of crippling illness and insanity. But for most of us, I can imagine no higher order than to be given freedom of choice. Not only does God allow us to choose, He gives us counsel and support to make wise choices.

1999 offers time for right choices. The world cautions us to beware and prepare for a future here. Time is running out on our natural resources. Y2K threatens upheaval in the financial and social order of things. To meet these and other emergencies, the world warns, "Stockpile food; prepare alternate energy sources; get ready to defend your rights and preparations from those who failed to prepare for the coming catastrophes." But John tells us to "Love not the world." Jesus said, "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? . . . But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

So Jesus' counsel is to place first priority on the Kingdom and our fitness for it. 1999 is the time for these concerns. Now

is our opportunity, and it is the only time we have. The adversary has always tried to sidetrack God's people from duty and to substitute false values for the true. God not only has given us the freedom of choice, but He gives us information on what the best choices are. We are not like a possum stepping blindly into a well-concealed trap. True, people traps are very cleverly laid and concealed by an expert trapper. But God in His Word has exposed the traps and told us exactly where to step to avoid them. When we go our own way, we are indeed like the possum, but if we take God's counsel, we can walk safely, and 1999 can be a year of priceless opportunity to make good choices.

Isaiah (1:16,17) cries out, "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow." God knows our weaknesses and how utterly impossible it is for us to do well on our own, but He adds: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." This He has accomplished by the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary's cross. When we come to Him in faith and obedience, He will wash us, give new life, and allow us to serve Him without condemnation. This can happen now in 1999. We may not have the whole year. We may not have tomorrow. But we have the present. Now is the day of salvation. Today if you will hear His voice, harden not your heart!

Freedom to choose to do right. Freedom to become sons and daughters of God. What more could we ask? --L.C.

FEAR NOT

"Fear not," says our Savior King
As we pass this year.
1999 will bring
To His children cheer.

Do we fear tomorrow's test?
Is our faint heart weak?
Does our faith oft fail to rest
In our Savior meek?

Draw near to the Savior's side;
Fear not Y2K;
He will guard whate'er betide;
He gives strength today.

Will He come in '99?
Is that great time near?
Yes, the fig tree is the sign;
See, the leaves appear.

He will gather all His sons
To His home on high.
Fear not then, beloved ones;
Our salvation's nigh. --L.C.

CHANGE

Some people cringe at it. Some ignore it. Some people crave it. Some despise it. Some people accept it. Some rebel. How do you respond to change? That can depend on many things.

We recently relocated; we moved. We changed many things. The first phase of moving was with anticipation. The actual phase was with anxiety. The last phase was with welcome relief! All phases had a certain amount of fear of unknowns which, when prayed about and surrendered to God, was released, increasing our dependency upon God.

We find a curious statement in Psalm 55:19b: "Because they have no changes, therefore **they fear not God.**" When things are stable and carnally secure, we tend to rest in them and lose our dependency upon God. Even Job had lessons to learn by change. Though he was perfect and upright, God had more to show him. He testified, "Changes and war are against

me." He lost his worldly stability to gain spiritual stability: that was God's design. It is still His design. The world is constantly changing, and many times we think the changes are against us when actually they are for our **spiritual strengthening**.

There are many aspects to change. There are the changes in the world; there are changes in our health; there are changes in our mind; and most importantly, there are changes in our spiritual lives. Actually, there is only one thing that does not change and that is God, which gives us much comfort. Now let us examine each of these aspects.

Changes in the world. This is constant and has been from the beginning. Adam and Eve saw change when they made the fatal choice. However, God has enabled us to make choices--that was His design--and so it was inevitable that Adam and Eve would encounter change: "Because they have no changes, therefore they fear not God."

The history of the Jews is one of constant change. Hosea tells of them: "As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I **change** their glory into shame." (4:7) They prospered, they gloried, they sinned; then God judged them, punished them, brought them down to their knees in shame; many times they repented of their sins, and changed their ways back to God. It takes spiritual poverty, bringing us to nothingness, to make us something for Him. If we are filled with anything else such as self or worldliness, then there is not room in us for Him, because we must be *filled* with Him.

Changes in the world are external; and as long as we keep them there, we do well. It is when we let the world into us that we see the adverse effects. The Church's history testifies to this. When the world was without, persecuting the Church, martyring men and women devoted to Christ, the Church thrived. When the world is within, we barely recognize the Church, despite large numbers of professed Christians.

So we will do well to keep the world in its place and ourselves in our place. Change where change is needed or required, but obey God at all costs. If we are comfortable and feel secure in this world, we are probably uncomfortable and insecure in Christ. (See I John 2:15-17.)

Changes in our health. This can change our perspective on life and alter our course. Illness or injury can suddenly bring us down into subjection to God, making us realize that we are His. The well-known passage of the apostle Paul's thorn in the flesh is an excellent example of the Christian attitude in this. He calls it "the messenger of Satan to buffet me." It was something that aggravated him, pestered him, limited him, and thwarted him physically. But notice what he says next: "Lest I should be exalted above measure." (I Cor. 12:7) He realized the spiritual benefits. He sought the Lord three times to heal him, but the Lord patiently explained to him a wonderful message: "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities. . . *for when I am weak, then am I strong.*" (vv. 8-10) This is hard for us to fathom, but those who have experienced it understand. When change comes to your body through illness or injury, you will understand if you are seeking the Lord and accepting His plan for you. There is a ministry in *every* area of life.

Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Mat. 18:4) This is the only door to His grace, strength, and power resting upon us. (to be continued next issue)

Ron Cable, Williamsport, Indiana

ADDRESS CHANGE

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The following article is the third and final by Brother Bart telling us of his family's trip into Mexico this past summer.

ANDALE P'ALLA (ahn'-dah-lay pah-yah')

My wife and I have had many laughs over the Mexican expression of "andale p'alla." *Andale* means walk or go; "p" is a contraction of either *por* or *para* (I'm not sure which), both of which mean either through or around; and *alla* means over or out there somewhere. So then, literally this expression means something like "You go through or around out there somewhere." ("You can't miss it," is implied.) It must be noted here that either a nod of the head or a slight wave of the hand indicates the approximate direction of the place in question (usually within ninety degrees.) Everyone we have ever asked for directions in Mexico has been most willing to try to help. Very often the well-intentioned response is "andale p'alla" with the accompanying nod or wave.

Needless to say, we have had to ask many different people to hone in on the needed direction and have spent hours going the wrong direction. I sometimes compare this in my own mind to sending a visitor into the Los Angeles area in search of a specific off-ramp. If I were to say, "Go ahead. You can't miss it. Just keep going that general direction and you're bound to see it." This would be ludicrous. The out of state visitor would have virtually no way of finding the correct off-ramp.

I'm ashamed to say that my thoughts about giving spiritual guidance to people without the gospel, like the Tarahumara, is something of the "andale p'alla" order. Let me explain. We who have had the Bible in front of us our whole lives, who have heard good, biblical teaching, who have fellowshiped with other brethren, who have prayed, who know much of God's Word, have the map, the guide-book, the guides, the companions . . . (all the help we could ever need) right with us. We often

assume these people asking for spiritual direction have the same advantages. They don't.

The Tarahumara people and others who have not ever had the privilege of hearing the Gospel hardly even know how to ask for directions. To say to people like this, "Just seek the Lord, pray, read your Bible, attend meetings and services regularly," is just like saying, "Andale p'alla." While these people often know of their spiritual hunger and need, they usually don't even know what questions to ask nor can they understand directions (spiritual instructions) that are too vague and general to be of much use. What they need is not the encouragement to go out and try to find their way on their own. These people need "preachers" (guides, teachers. . . See Romans 10:14). They need to be shown very clearly and specifically "The Way." We need to lead them. None of us can doubt that time for spreading the Gospel and repentance is limited. As our world crumbles around us, as daily we hear news verifying the shortness of the times, we must be compelled to share both of our material and spiritual wealth with those without. They simply do not have the time to wander about spiritually and try to discover for themselves what exactly someone meant by "andale p'alla."

Bart Taylor
Tuolumne, California

OLD BRETHREN MEETING HOUSES, PAST AND PRESENT

THE WAKARUSA OLD BRETHREN MEETING HOUSE

So called because the nearest town is Wakarusa, Indiana, this meeting house is located one mile north and two and one half miles east of the town square. The site is pleasantly located on a slight rise at the edge of a wood lot on the south side of an east and west road.

A thirty-two feet east and west by fifty-two feet north and south building with full basement was completed here in September, 1968, and for the first time the Indiana Old Brethren had a meeting house with indoor plumbing and automatic heating. This house was broken into, vandalized, and arson was attempted, but, happily, only minor charring resulted.

In 1979-1980 an addition thirty-six feet north and south by fifty-four feet east and west, again with full basement, was added to the south end of the original structure, thus forming a tee floor plan. The terrain slopes in such a way that the basement exits at ground level.

Allen Bowser and Rhoda Royer were married in the basement of the remodeled building in August, 1980, before the main floor auditorium was finished. David Royer and Elva Schrock were married in the completed building the following July. These were the first weddings held in an Indiana Old Brethren meeting house.

At the present time, the congregation has about reached the capacity of the building, and plans are under consideration for some alterations which, hopefully, will result in more efficient use of floor space. This is rather overwhelming to those who remember when there were but a dozen Old Brethren in Indiana. But: "Numbers are no mark that men

with God will right be found;

✓ A few were saved in Noah's ark
while many millions drowned."

In 1982, a cemetery was established in the southeast corner of the property, and eighty lots were laid out. Another one acre has been added since. As of December 12, 1998, there are three graves, all in the first plot: a stillborn son of David and Elva Royer (3-22-87), Aaron Beery (1963-1990), and a stillborn son of Neil and Lois Martin (12-29-93). The apostle tells us these will rise first when the last trumpet sounds.

As we travel about we see some very large and ornate buildings labeled "Church" (glorified meeting houses) that would perhaps rival Solomon's temple for magnificence. However, Stephen, in his defense before the Sanhedrin, said, "The most High does not dwell in houses made with hands." (Acts 7:48 Amp.) May the glory of the Old Brethren's simple meeting houses shine in the lives of those who enter there to worship and leave to reflect the light of Jesus. "What kind of house will *you* build for me? says the Lord." (Acts 7:49 NIV)

Harold Royer, Goshen, Indiana

Happy New Year to all. We praise God for His mercy and for the love of Christian friends. Thanks to those who have helped financially and with writing or selecting articles and poems for *The Pilgrim*. Thanks to Kenneth Martin for his faithful writing in each issue, to Linda Frick and others for the Children's Page, to Bill Miller for the address labels, and to Sarah for her typing and proofreading.

Many subscriptions expire with the old year. We do not send notices, but often underline or write in red the expiration date beside your name on the address label. We are happy for new subscriptions or suggestions of names for free samples. Subscription price is still \$5.00 per year. We welcome selections of poems or articles and encourage original writings, of course reserving the right to print only what we see as fitting. If you are receiving *The Pilgrim* free, please let us know if you wish to continue. May we all be encouraged to serve God faithfully in this closing year of the century and millennium.

Leslie and Martha Cover

BIRTH

CROWLEY - A daughter, Abigail Marcie, born December 18 to Kevin and Jennifer Crowley of Potrero, California

OBITUARY

Pauline Elizabeth (Mason) Flora, daughter of Wade Hampton and Virginia Etta (Boone) Mason was born September 13, 1905, near Rocky Mount, Franklin County, Virginia, and departed this life December 9, 1998, at her home near Greenville, Darke County, Ohio, making her earthly pilgrimage 93 years, 2 months, and 26 days. After recovering from a nearly fatal sickness with typhoid fever, she was baptized into the Church of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by the Old German Baptist Brethren in the Pigg River District when she was twelve years old. She had a very strong faith in the grace and salvation of God and in the truth and power of God's Word and the Holy Spirit which sustained her in peace and victory through life's many trials.

On April 13, 1932, she was united in Christian marriage to Cornelius Jonathan Flora, a widower with six children, the four oldest of which she helped raise as her own. The two younger girls lived next door with their mother, Naoma Mae's parents, Henry and Anna (Menke) Mohler on Farrington (Germany) Road, east of Covington, Ohio. She bore nine children herself, and we all were raised together in an equal and Christian family setting.

In 1944 they purchased and moved to a farm on the Bradford-Children's Home Road, two miles west of Bradford, Ohio, where they resided until 1975, when they moved to another home west of Greenville until Daddy's death in December, 1976. Then Mother moved into her mobile home at the home of her daughter, Thelma, and husband, Charles Garber and family until her passing. It was a blessing and inspiration to help care for her as she was so appreciative of everything done for her. The last two months she was unable to get around by herself and needed extra assistance.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; 3 children: Ruth Elda, C. J. Flora, Jr., and Paul Flora; 2 sons-in-

law: Howard Denlinger and Clarence Frantz; 5 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren; 1 sister: Annie Ronk; 4 brothers: William, Daniel, Walter, and Thomas Mason.

Surviving are 5 sons and wives: Raymond and Grace Flora, Hubert and Glenna Flora, Hollis and Charlotte Flora, Wade and Violet Flora, Buford and Joan Flora; 7 daughters: Wonedra (Mrs. Clinton) Sink, Virginia (Mrs. Kenneth) Peters, Ann (Mrs. Myron) Bowman, Etta Mae (Mrs. Russell) Garber, Mildred (Mrs. Marion) Denlinger, Thelma (Mrs. Charles) Garber, Lucille (Mrs. Keith) Bussey; 1 daughter-in-law, Norma (Mrs. Luther) Angle; 73 grandchildren; 139 great grandchildren; and 25 great great grandchildren. Also surviving are 2 brothers and wives: Robert B. and Arnita Mason and Edward J. and Blanche Mason.

Funeral services were conducted by Ministers Henry Garber and Melvin Coning at the Old Brethren Meetinghouse west of Bradford, Ohio, December 13, 1998. Burial was in the Sugar Grove Cemetery south of Covington, there to await the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, "Who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom." (II Tim. 4:1) Mother will be missed by all who knew her, but our loss is her eternal gain.

The Family

GOD'S WITNESS

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." (Hebrews 1:1-3)

This is a condensed historical record of God's communicating and witnessing to fallen humanity--providing a way for man to be restored to a loving relationship with him and one another. To have this relationship restored is proof of our salvation and is now God's means of grace to a lost and dying world.

After Jesus rose from the grave and just prior to His return to heaven, He was with His disciples and commanded "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these thing. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:47-49)

The apostles were obedient to the command of Jesus and stayed in Jerusalem until this promise was fulfilled. "They were all with one accord in one place," a perfect environment for the Holy Spirit to reveal Himself. The physical exposure of this great event was so unusual that there were all kinds of speculations as to what was happening. Jesus had prepared His apostles for this event, and they were able to explain what it was and immediately exercised in His powers.

The Holy Spirit, through the instrument of man, has penetrated to the far corners of the earth and has proven to be the most effective means in demonstrating the power of salvation against the powers of evil and sin.

The apostles were still in question about the kingdom of Israel just prior to Jesus' ascension. It is quite evident that they were still struggling with personal ego and advantage.

After this great event of the Holy Spirit's outpouring, we see nothing in the apostles' manner that showed they had self-interest or personal ego, and they began to build God's kingdom on earth. The proof of the apostles' understanding of God's kingdom was that they willingly sacrificed their lives for its cause.

As we observe the events of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we see mysteries that are difficult to understand, but we also see the practical side, which is faith, repentance, baptism and community; and the effects this had on its subjects--the corporate community in its pure form of service and love. This has been God's witness on earth for nearly two thousand years. Acts 2 gives the account of this great event.

The account ends with a positive note and proves its success and where salvation is experienced. "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47)

Kenneth Martin, Nappanee, Indiana

FOR YOUTH: CRUCIFIED AND RESURRECTED

Pilate heard the crowd cry out, "Crucify Him!"

He asked a question; they repeated again.

Soldiers took Him to a hall, and they

Smote, and to Him "Prophecy," so they say.

He tried to carry the cross, but it was hard

For Jesus to carry; it was much too far.

Through His dear hands the nails they had nailed,

To make Him so suffer, they had not failed.

Then He cried out, "It is finished," He had said,

He died and three days to lie among the dead.

Three days passed; the stone was rolled away;

Jesus arose from the dead on Sunday.

When Mary came, she was frightened to behold;

No longer was Jesus in the linen fold.

She ran to the disciples to tell,

She saw the risen Lord, and He was well.

Jennifer Brandt, Union City, Ohio

CHILDREN'S PAGE: AT CHURCH

Perry heard the door open at the back of the church. He squirmed around and stretched his neck to see over the back of the bench. Just as he caught a glimpse of who was coming in late, Mother nudged him with her elbow and whispered, "Turn around."

A few minutes later, a baby began to cry hard. Perry turned to look back. He wanted to see which baby was crying and what the mother would do about it. Before he'd even spotted the crying baby, Mother's elbow nudged him again, reminding him to turn around.

Bang! A hymnbook fell to the floor somewhere close behind Perry. The sudden noise made him jump. Quickly he twisted around to see who dropped a book. Mother's elbow jabbed him sharply this time.

For awhile all was quiet except for the minister preaching. Then there was a commotion in the back corner. Perry wondered what the disturbance was and started to look back. Just in time, he remembered Mother's elbow and did not turn to look. There were three more times that Perry almost turned to look back, but each time he remembered that he wasn't supposed to do that.

On the way home, Perry asked, "Mother, why can't I look back during church? I want to see who comes late, or which baby is crying, or who went to sleep and dropped their book." Dad spoke up to answer, "It is enough of a distraction to everyone to hear the noises that we can't control without having the added distraction of people turning around to look. If we are reverently listening to the sermon, we can ignore all those disturbances. We come to Church to worship God, not to see everything that happens around us. Besides, it is hard for the minister to keep talking when the congregation isn't paying attention. We must train ourselves to listen attentively to the

sermon and block out other noises. That will honor God and encourage the ministers."

"You did very well at sitting still the last half of the service." Mother encouraged her son. "I'm glad to see that you are trying to control yourself."

Perry smiled and decided he'd keep controlling his urge to turn around until it became a habit to sit still.

Linda Frick, Gettysburg, Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

The heroes of faith of Hebrews 11 died without seeing the promises fulfilled, but they saw them "afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." So should we.

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No. 2

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

SUFFER THE CHILDREN TO COME

Hark! I hear my Saviour say:
"Suffer the children to come to me;"
Do not turn the lambs away,
"Suffer the children to come."
Point them to the Father's throne;
Speak to them in tenderest tone,
Jesus calls them for His own,
"Suffer the children to come."

Tell them Jesus loves them all,
"Suffer the children to come to me."
He will guide them lest they fall,
"Suffer the children to come."
Oh, forbid them not, I pray;
Let the children come today;
Hear the blessed Saviour say:
"Suffer the children to come."

Take them gently by the hand,
"Suffer the children to come to me;"
Lead them to the better land,
"Suffer the children to come."
Lead them with a willing hand;
Tell them of a Saviour kind;
They eternal life may find,
"Suffer the children to come."

--Dr. I. L. Mitchell

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FOLLOW JESUS

"And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:27)

In his recent book *Secret of the Strength*, Peter Hoover proposes that the true success and survival of the Church in any age rests on their following Jesus Christ. He describes the Anabaptist movement of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, cites their writings, and points to their phenomenal success in spreading across Europe (from a few to 60,000 in 30 years) and the resulting martyrdoms attending such complete commitment.

What does it mean to follow Jesus? Is this the true secret of the strength of the Church? We can study the examples of history, but perhaps the answers to these questions can become vivid and real to us only if we take up the cross ourselves and follow the Savior. He has opened the way for us to follow and proclaims that this way is Himself. He is the door, and He is the way. Our effort, sincere and zealous though it may be, is insufficient without Him.

We all "come after" or "follow" Jesus in the sense that we live in a later time (perhaps the very end time!). But this is not what following means. Jesus wants us to copy Him, obey Him, accept Him as Master, and to walk in His footsteps. We sing about it in hymns like "O to Be Like Thee," "Follow the Path of Jesus," and "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken." A follower is one who looks to the leader for direction.

In places and times of persecution, following Jesus sometimes meant literally hanging on a cross like Jesus did. For others it meant going to the stake to be burned or being drowned in the river. Men in the hands of Satan devise every imaginable means of torture and painful death.

In any age, taking up the cross and following Christ means death. In a generation like ours when Christians are tolerated, it still means death to sin and this old world when we are "crucified with Christ." A. W. Tozer in "The Old Cross and the New," describes it this way: "The man in Roman times who took up his cross and started down the road had already said goodbye to his friends. He was not coming back. He was not going out to have his life redirected; he was going out to have it ended."

In following Jesus Christ, the big picture is important. Where are we going? What has priority? Details are also important, but not at the expense of principle. I have seen children begin to draw or copy a picture. Most will begin with detail. Something catches their eye as a place to start. But to draw a picture well, you must first have proportion and balance. Sketch in important large figures or groups and add detail later.

So with life. In following, we must determine to obey regardless of where it might take us. Daniel "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat." "Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord." The big picture is to trust Jesus for His grace and follow where He leads. To do this, we study His Word, imitate His life, hear the Gospel preached, and accept counsel from our brethren.

Those who come after Jesus must separate from the world. This is not a detail but a principle. Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world." Paul wrote, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate. . . and I will receive you." John wrote, "Love not the world. . ." The kingdoms of this world have their God-given duties including use of the sword, making of laws, and punishment of evil. To follow Christ we become non-resistant, and peaceable. His followers "turn the other cheek," love their enemies, feed them, and pray for them. We are to be so much in the same mind with citizens of Christ's

kingdom that we "speak the same thing" and that we are "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." We are to share what we have been given and not to claim possessions as our own.

This practice of separation of the kingdoms meant trouble for the Anabaptists as well as the early Christians, early Brethren, and any sincere followers. The state churches after the Reformation felt the need of the power of the rulers to uphold their cause. Christians who see the overall picture know that God omnipotent is the one in control.

Belonging to a separate kingdom will be expressed in details: how we talk, how we appear and dress, what our business deals are like, how we show love to those around us. We will ask frequently, "What would Jesus do?"

Just being separate is not enough; we must be part of the fellowship of believers. Peter writes of Jesus, the chief corner stone," and of His followers as "lively stones." We are part of the building of God. To be a part of God's Kingdom, His Church, we must give up our wills in submission to His will. In our last issue, I wrote that I could "imagine no higher order than to be given freedom of choice." Perhaps this is not quite right because to give over our wills and our choices to God's will is higher still. We become part of His body, working, praying, encouraging one another in the special community of faith.

Details *are* important to the overall picture. Alexander Mack wrote regarding outward baptism that it was an insignificant but necessary ordinance. He added, "However, I do not think that a single commandment of the Lord Jesus dare to be considered insignificant, if we consider the power and might of the Sovereign without reluctance."

Will we follow the Savior wherever He may lead? Will this indeed prove to be the secret of strength for us as individuals and as a body of believers? Let us find out for ourselves. -L.C.

A TIME TO KEEP SILENCE. . . A TIME TO SPEAK

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. . . a time to keep silence, and a time to speak." (Ecclesiastes 3: 1,7)

Do we not all struggle with learning to say and do the proper things at the proper time? Of ourselves, it is truly impossible. With God, all things are possible. James 3:8 tells us man cannot tame the tongue, so we must ask and allow God to tame it.

What does the Word of God say about "a time to keep silence"? It seems like the Epistle of James is full of instruction for us who struggle with control of our speech. Perhaps the first place to start would be to ask God to purify our hearts for "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Then, if speaking comes fluently for us, our tongues will "minister grace to the hearers." Read Ephesians 4:29-32. If you are burdened with this struggle, prayerfully study James, chapters 1 and 3. When our speaking is used to hurt or destroy another's reputation, it seems to us a sin of commission.

What does the Word of God say about "a time to speak"? Paul says in his first letter to Timothy (6:18) to ". . . be willing to communicate." (The margin says to be sociable.) In Hebrews 13:16 we read, "But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." For some, it *is* quite a sacrifice to do this. Yet, we are all instructed to do this whether it is easy for us or not. When Moses complained about God's sending him to Pharaoh to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt, he said, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy

mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say." When God asks us to say something, He will give us His words through His Spirit if we but ask Him, even if our tongues are not eloquent. Just because we cannot say it as well as someone else is not excuse for not obeying Him. We have heard others say, "I just don't have the ability or gift to teach my family." Of course we don't of ourselves, but we can give them the Word of God for spiritual food. Then the Holy Spirit teaches them His wisdom.

We communicate through song. Colossians 3:16 says, "...teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. . ." A mother or father who goes about daily labors singing creates a happy and joyful atmosphere for the whole family. The one who sings is uplifted and burdens are eased when we sing "as unto the Lord." Who doesn't feel uplifted when we sing "with the Spirit and understanding"? Surely it is as sweet incense unto the Lord! It should be an expression of the heart and not to "tickle the ear."

We rejoiced when we heard that yet another family, not of our circles, have removed television from their home so there would be more time for communication with each other. Many would rather be entertained by letting others do the talking, reading, and singing. There is a place for this too. However, is it not possible to allow these things to take the place of communication? Could we, too, fall into this temptation? We must "put on the whole armour of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

We are convinced that there is nothing wrong of itself but how, when, where, and why we use it can be wrong.

As we study on when to speak and when not to speak, we find that we "fall short of the glory of God" many times in our communications. We could call lack of communication a "sin of omission." May we all strive to communicate to His honor and glory is our prayer.

James and Betty Beery
Williamsport, Indiana

CHANGE (Continued from last issue)

Changes in our minds. Everything affects our minds, even the weather. Let us look at our minds. We see many people whose minds are fearful of the many happenings in this world; we see angry minds; we see confused minds. People do many things to keep their minds occupied to block out reality, but Isaiah says, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." (26:3) This describes the Christian's mind.

We change our minds many times; we are constantly learning and gaining new information. What kind of mind do you have? The Bible speaks of many different types of minds: minds willing to work (Neh. 4:6); doubtful minds (Luke 12:29); a willing mind (II Cor. 8:12); a sound mind (II Tim. 1:7); a double mind (James 1:8); the same mind (Rom. 12:16); and one mind. (II Cor. 13:11; Phil. 1:27, 2:2; I Pet. 3:8) Christians are joined together by the mind of Christ (I Cor. 2:16) with the same hope, the same goal, and the same purpose. "Whose mind is stayed (locked) on thee."

Changes in our spiritual lives. Lastly, everything we have looked at affects our spiritual lives, but we want to examine spiritual growth. Spiritually, we are either moving forward or we are falling. To ride a bicycle you must keep moving forward to stay up; but when you stop, you fall over unless you put your foot down to hold you up. Many professed Christians are holding themselves up.

Growth means change; we grow up and we grow out. Our hair grows longer; our muscles grow stronger. To know the mind of Christ is a lifelong journey that ends at His throne, and only then will we know, fully realize, His manifold wisdom and power, majesty and glory, as we come face to face with our Saviour. It is our duty and should be our joyful service to "grow up into him in all things." (Eph. 4:15) "Grow in grace,

and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. . ."
(II Pet. 3:18)

Change doesn't always mean growth; it can be a deterioration as when our bodies die. But if we are building on our faith, we will know it (II Pet 1:5-11), and others will know it. Note that "if these things be in you, and **abound**, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (v. 8) So it is either the world or the mind of Christ that we keep in focus; the other becomes blurry when out of focus. Is there such a thing as a blurry Christian? "My son, fear thou the Lord and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change." (Pro. 24:21) The world is given to change; it lives for change. The Christian rests in the eternal security of Christ who is always the same and is always present. Not only that, but He is *in* us if there is room. He wants to *fill* us and *transform* us into His likeness, His image. This can only be accomplished through growth. "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious." (I Pet. 2:2,3) Then, as we grow, we use "strong meat (which) belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." (Heb. 5:13-14) Not only this, but "let us go on unto perfection." (Heb. 6:1)

Conclusion. Change is good if our involvement with the world is robbing us of spiritual growth. Change in anything is good if it is to keep us alive in Christ and focused on Him. Change is good if it is for the furtherance and enhancement of His kingdom. The key is to allow Christ to *fill our hearts*, so that we may be good ground and may hear the Word, understand it and do it, and bring forth *much fruit*. (Mat. 13:23; Mark 4:20; Luke 8:15)

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and

spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Col. 3:16) Looking for that day when "we shall all be **changed**, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be **changed**." (I Cor. 15:51b-52)

Ron Cable

West Lebanon, Indiana

OLD BRETHREN MEETING HOUSES PAST AND PRESENT

THE SALIDA CHURCH HOUSE

Claimed to be the oldest institutional building in Stanislaus County, the Salida meeting house was built about 1878 by the Cumberland Prebyterians. The thirty foot by forty foot structure with a fourteen foot by sixteen foot entry vestibule was constructed of fine grain redwood. The First Congregational Church of Salida obtained the property around 1886. The deed to the Old Brethren is dated September 6, 1918. Named as trustees on the deed are Deacons J. J. Wagoner, W. H. Mohler, David Wolf, and Earl Hitch. The purchase price of the church and the one acre lot was \$600.00.

The Brethren removed the bell tower, steeple, and the podium. The bell was taken to the new Congregational Church in Salida where, I believe, it is today. A kitchen was added to the north and a baby room was built on the northwest corner of the building. A shed was built to store a horse-drawn hearse. Six twelve foot tables with folding legs along with straight benches were made for communion meals. These were stored in the attic above the kitchen. Before the east door was added, the tables and benches were passed through the windows when setting up for meals.

Electric lights were installed in 1930. A concrete foundation replaced the redwood footings in the fall of 1943.

The wood floors were refinished and the interior plastered the following spring. A gas furnace replaced the wood burning heater in the spring of 1945. In 1949 the partition between the entry vestibule and the auditorium was removed and new pews which converted into tables replaced the smaller redwood pews. Originally there were two aisles with three rows of pews which extended to the walls.

With its eighteen foot ceiling, the building is noted for exceptional acoustical quality. The church is listed in the Stanislaus Historical Registry. When the 99 Freeway was surveyed, provisions were made to not disturb the church property.

Joseph Wagner

Modesto, California

(The one wedding held in this meeting house since the Brethren have used it was that of Joseph and Letha Cover Wagner on December 5, 1959. Memories of special people, Gospel preaching, and inspiring times of communion and fellowship surround this place for those of us who worshipped there from our childhood. --L.C.)

GOD'S PLAN

God's grace, that was made known and is being revealed to a lost and dying world, was established by His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus declared that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. This is to mean that Satan will not be able to destroy its witness of declaring its purpose and calling. This does not mean it will be spared suffering from the powers of evil, but that faith in Christ in its corporate and personal calling is stronger than the fear of physical death.

Jesus' submitting His physical body to the powers of evil was His inaugural message of the kingdom He was establishing on earth. Before this took place He masterfully formed a kingdom organism that formulated a corporate community that

was to represent God's will for all people. Jesus carefully chose twelve men and commissioned them, that after His departure, they were to go into all the world and continue the work that He had begun.

When the time of His departure came, they accompanied Him to the Mount of Olivet. As they were gazing into the heavens at His disappearance, two men stood by in white apparel and assured them that this same Jesus would return again in like manner. Jesus had assured them of this before. Then they returned to Jerusalem and assembled the eleven apostles and some others including Mary, the mother of Jesus, and some other women--in all, about one hundred and twenty.

One of the first things they considered was to replace Judas who was no more because of his unfaithfulness. In this we see the reverence the apostles had for Jesus and His efforts, also their own disappointment and loss. The decision to replace Judas was in honor of Christ's kingdom. Also it was a fulfillment of the Scriptures. (Psalm 109:8) To find a man qualified to replace Judas is a testimony of God's undefeatable promise.

As the apostles began building God's kingdom on earth, they were without prestige or honor. The powers of Satan tried in vain to extinguish it through persecution and death. In spite of this, it grew in influence and honor by great numbers, without retaliation or physical resistance.

Before the close of the New Testament era, we see another attempt to destroy God's plan. As the kingdom of God grew in influence and honor, it became a temptation for personal honor and prestige. The desire for prestige and honor is just under the skin of all men. If this is not controlled by the Spirit of Christ, he cannot relate to the organism of God's kingdom and its ordained structure, "which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." (I Tim. 3:15) The apostle Paul dealt with this quite extensively in defense of his calling--not for

his own personal prestige or honor, but in defense of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and its physical attachment and responsibility of each member. The respect for God's plan through Jesus is where truth has been preserved.

God has ordained the church and the home. If there is respect and obedience to their foundational structure, this is where the fruits are borne that we are called to. This is the testimony of Jesus in real life, proving the power of the Holy Spirit over the powers of sin and darkness. This is where future generations will be guided into eternal truth.

Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

FOR YOUTH

SCATTERED PEAS

I groaned as the peas scattered on the floor, blending into the carpet. Not only did I have a mess to clean up, but they were valuable to me. They were two years old, and not of any unusual variety. They cost me only fifty cents. But I knew they could still grow if they were planted.

They surely couldn't grow on the floor, though, so I got on my knees and started to work them into a pile, reaching under furniture, feeling for even the farthest ones. I carefully gathered them up and put them back into their envelope.

Once I had gathered all I could find, I taped the envelope closed so they wouldn't be spilled again. At the proper time, I would plant them, and hopefully they would grow and bear fruit in spite of their spill.

And I thought: That's a lot like God and us. We are lost, scattered, of little worth, unable to grow. Yet to Him we are valuable. Imagine the King on His knees, searching for a quantity of something rather ugly, gathering each one with care, and making a way to keep them safe. Then He plants them in

an orderly fashion, in the right place, at the right time, with the right soil and water, and they grow into something beautiful and fruitful, just as He planned.

Beware, though, that you don't hide from God for too long. Once the envelope is sealed, any seeds left go in the trash.

Sad to say, even the seeds that get planted don't always grow and bear fruit and it's not the gardener's fault. Please be sure to grow and bear fruit, together with others of like precious faith, in an orderly fashion, not in between rows where you're likely to be hoed out. Someday we all will be gathered in God's harvest and preserved together forever.

Martha Wagner
Gettysburg, Ohio

WITNESS FOR JESUS

A perfect, great Example we find in God's own Word,
Of One that we're to copy; it's Jesus Christ our Lord.
On earth for just awhile, He lived, and then He gave
His life and blood so precious, that we could all be saved.
He then returned to heaven. Responsibility
Now rests on us, His children, that we His witness be.

But how can we as humans, attempt so large a task
When we are weak and failing? "Lord, what is this You ask?"
"I'll give you of My Spirit, and power, and love within
That you can be My witness in a dark world full of sin.
My grace is all sufficient; I'll grant a rich supply
And strength, divine and mighty, if unto Me you cry."

And so, to be like Jesus, we must be born again;
Realize the sin and sorrow that we've been rescued from!
A broken, contrite spirit, in true humility...
Compassion, care for others, and fervent charity...
Setting our affection on lasting things above...
All of this is needful to point others to Christ's love.

The world and its allurements, and Satan's sly deceit
Entice us to quit striving our heavenly goal to reach.
They seek to mar our witness, to lure us closer in
To join in their amusement, frivolity, and sin.
We dare not love the world, friend. 'Tis enmity with God!
'Twill lead us sure to ruin, when we its course have trod.

Our topics of discussion, our daily conversation,
Just how we spend our given time, the liberties we're taking,
Our actions and reactions, that others see each day,
Our dress and our appearance: do these all have godly sway?
Upon the ones around us, that they can clearly see
That a witness true for Jesus is what we try to be?

An awesome task before us, that we are called to bear
The image of our Savior, His light and love to share.
Oh, Jesus! Cleanse these vessels! Create deeply within
A longing to be like Thee, and other souls to win.
And help us to be faithful, and never be ashamed
To stand out as a witness for Thee and Thy dear name.

Rhoda Royer
Nappanee, Indiana

DEACON CHOSEN

On January 25, 1999, the Ohio part of the Indiana congregation held an election for a deacon. Larry Cable was chosen and installed. He will be serving with his wife Liana. May God bless their labors in the Kingdom for His glory.

--Melvin Coning

BIRTHS

CABLE - A daughter, Samantha Arlene, born January 13 to Aaron and Arlene Cable of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

GOLDING - A son, Jack Ryan, born January 15 to Jeff and Deanna Golding of Wakarusa, Indiana.

CHILDREN'S PAGE: What A Little Boy Can Do

"Come, Maude, let's go to the singing in the social room," Nurse Sherry said to the small lady in a wheelchair.

"No, I don't want to go today," Maude answered. "I'm no good for anything or anyone, and I don't feel like going out there with all those happy people. They have no idea what it is like to be old and sit around in a wheelchair all day."

"You are down in the dumps today, aren't you?" Sherry ran a comb through Maude's thin, white hair. Then she pulled a clean lap-robe from the drawer and tucked it in at both sides of Maude's lap. "Let's go anyway. Maybe there will be some little phrase in a hymn, or something the minister says that will cheer you up. Ready? Here we go!" and Sherry pushed the wheelchair out the door and down the hall.

Sherry had just positioned Maude in a row with other people in wheelchairs, when Maude spied a very little boy coming down the row. He was shaking hands with each person and giving them a big smile. "How precious!" she thought. Just watching him made her forget her gloominess. Her face softened as she eagerly waited for her turn. Ah, the feel of his soft little hand in her frail hand! And his dear smile as he paused by her chair and gazed into her face! There was a glow of happiness in her eyes as she watched him go to every resident and shake hands with them.

Later that evening, when Nurse Sherry brought Maude's supper tray in, she found the dear lady contentedly singing "Jesus loves me, this I know," to herself.

"Oh! Wasn't that little fellow dear?" she gushed when she saw Sherry. "He couldn't have been more than two years old! And nobody was with him to make him shake hands with us. He wanted to do it! He was so sweet! I know I'll dream about him all night." and she talked on and on as long as Sherry was there to listen. The soft, warm glow of happiness lingered on her face for days afterward.

Young children, **YOU** can make a difference in someone's life just like this little boy did. Don't be too shy or cross to shake hands with older people and give them a friendly smile. It is nice if you can talk to them a little, but sometimes they are too hard-of-hearing to hear you. But your smile and the feel of your hand in theirs is enough to cheer their lonely days. Surprisingly, you will be happier, too.

Linda Frick, Gettysburg, Ohio

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(765) 893-4498

Andrew Lavy's: 1356 W. 350 N. Camden, IN 46917

Susie Sell: 7783 1/2 Children's Home-Bradford Road

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The pilgrim's path doth lead him on,
To his dear home beyond the tide;
He treads the path the Savior's gone,
For him there is no one beside.

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from
fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

HE WHO WOULD VALIANT BE

He who would valiant be
'Gainst all disaster,
Let him in constancy
Follow the Master.
There's no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round
With dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound,
His strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might;
Though he with giants fight:
He will make good his right
To be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, Thou dost defend
Us with Thy Spirit,
We know we at the end
Shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away
I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labor night and day
To be a pilgrim.

Pearcy Dearmer, 1906
From Zion's Praises

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RESPONSIBILITY: TO WHOM DO YOU BELONG?

Responsibility, accountability, duty: are these words outdated today? It seems to me that we need to be more aware of our duty. We have been given so much and so much freedom for so long that we must be beginning to think we deserve it--that it comes as a result of our imagined virtue, and that no kind of response is required. However, we know that God's Word proves differently. Jesus pronounces blessings on those who do respond to God's goodness: the merciful, the meek, the patient sufferer, the peacemaker, those who desire righteousness and are pure in heart and poor in spirit.

With freedom comes responsibility. A free choice is accompanied by the duty to choose rightly. With so much prosperity and blessing comes accountability to use what we have been given to bless others and demonstrate thankfulness to God.

Why are we so accountable? We are so accountable because God is fair. God has decreed that ". . . Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required. . ." (Luke 12:48) Some reply against God, charge Him with playing favorites (like Satan charged about Job) and respond poorly to His goodness. We react to difficulty and trials with, "Why me?" I don't know who first turned that around and asked "Why not me?" but that response is certainly better. God is right and just and good. We begin with this assurance even if we fail to understand all the why's.

Slaves, persecuted ones, and children all have limited freedom and therefore limited responsibility. There is the sad case of a group of thirty-two Siberian Christians who approached the American Embassy in Moscow in 1963. In

their homeland of Siberia, the communists began teaching in the schools against God. When they required the Christian children to learn blasphemies about God and Christ, it was too much. They took their children out of school. The government reacted by taking their children to a boarding school 250 miles away. Against their will, the responsibility to their children was changed. They tried to leave their country with the help of the American Embassy but found it was impossible. Do we see our greater responsibility because of our greater freedom?

Fatalists and some Calvinists believe that men do not have free choice. But if they have no choice, how can they be held accountable? We believe that God is sovereign. There will be no surprises to Him because He knows all--past, present, and future. I confess to limited understanding; I do not know all the answers. But let us be suspicious of any doctrine that would deny that we have choice or accountability. (They do go together.) Any teaching that says it does not matter to God how we live cannot be from His Word. He has given His only begotten Son, our blessed Savior, to effect our salvation, something we could never do by our poor effort. But He has given us much to do that we can do by His Holy Spirit's power; and He has made it plain that we are accountable in this area. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Galatians 6:7,8) The verse that follows is a reminder of the sovereign promise and provision of our heavenly Father: "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

What are the areas of our responsibility? First, our duty is to God--to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. This means obedience. If we fail this responsibility, any other effort, no matter how zealous, will be futile. His authority is unlimited. In our freedom, we sometimes think our

time is ours, our money is ours, our thoughts are *certainly* ours, our homes, property, "things," belong to us. But the truth is that all these are God's. Paul asks (I Cor. 4:7): ". . . and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?" We don't really own anything, do we? It is all given by God, and He will call us to account for the things done, thought, and used.

Our duty to God is expressed in our relationship to one another. He does not need our things; He already owns them. But He tells us in Galatians 5:13, "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but **by love serve one another**." Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matt. 25:40)

Our duty to God and one another includes our matters of money, time, possessions and all that God gives us daily. With our (God's) money, we need to be generous but frugal. Someone has wisely said, "Extravagance is wrong, even if we can 'afford' it." If we truly put others first, this will not be a problem. Perhaps we pass over these words too lightly: "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth." Is that in the Bible? Yes, I Cor. 10:24. Does it fit in our competitive, capitalistic culture? No, but it fits well in the Christian setting of love for one another.

Our bodies are where we live, our "houses." Surely they are our own! The advocates of "pro choice" say that a woman has a right to decide about her own body. But Paul writes (I Cor. 6:19,20): "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Our time, too, is owned by God. So is our strength, and even our thoughts. Paul writes also about "bringing into

captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (II Cor. 10:5)

It looks like we haven't much left. But we can be real possessors of the grace of God. We possess and are possessed of the Holy Spirit. Jesus offers to be **our** Savior. Truly, we are rich, and we are responsible, too, because of these priceless possessions. --L.C.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: What was the purpose of the law for the Jews as a nation?

Answer: The law was to make them a separate, peculiar people to God and to teach them to be fair in their dealings with one another. The rituals and sacrifices were to remind them of God's holiness and what He required of them and why. The carrying out of this was the fulfilling of the law to love God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself.

Question: Did the failure of the Jews as a nation to keep all the law prevent God from achieving His purpose? Did that failure hinder those who truly did strive to keep it?

Answer: No, it did not prevent Him from accomplishing His purpose. Through failure as a nation, He demonstrated His long-suffering and mercy in continuing to call them, and ultimately His judgment in their destruction and captivity. Finally, His further mercy was shown in returning them and giving them another opportunity as a nation.

It did not hinder the faithful because they received God's blessing in the trying times as evidenced by Jeremiah, Daniel, the three Hebrew children, etc., who were blessed and saved from destruction.

Through both the faithful and unfaithful, He illustrated by this the principles laid out to them in Deuteronomy 30:19:

"... I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore, choose life that both thou and thy seed may live."

Question: Was there any evidence that the faithful Israelites attempted to separate themselves from the nation of Israel in order to be more effective?

Answer: It is evident they did not, because their testimony was to continue to call and pray for their people as evidenced through Daniel and the prophets. God used them without removing them from the Israelite nation.

Question: Was this still true at the time Jesus was here on earth?

Answer: Yes, it was. He never advocated that His followers ceased to be Jews or Israelites, but He condemned the man-made additions and changes to God's law in a call to holiness and righteousness. Further evidence of this is seen in the Apostles' desire to call the Israelites, their people, to repentance and a true relationship with God.

Question: Following Christ's coming, what is the continuing relationship of His law to grace?

Answer: We must grasp His righteousness through the law and our total inability to attain it without the salvation Jesus purchased and offers to us through His sacrifice. Accepting His sacrifice and attempting to be faithful brings us into His grace.

Question: Are there parallels between Israel and God's people today?

Answer: Yes, there are many. God's desire still is that His church would be faithful to Him. Even though much of the professed church is not, He is still demonstrating His long-suffering and mercy and ultimately His judgment on those who are not faithful. It is still true that those who strive to be faithful are not prevented by those who are not. A further parallel is that the faithful today still continue to call to and pray for those who are not. The faithful do not disassociate themselves from the church in individualism, but still desire to

be a part of God's professed people. God is still protecting His faithful and blessing them.

Question: Is it God's purpose for His faithful to be so scattered?

Answer: Jesus' teaching to His followers was to go unto all the world teaching and illustrating His truth, calling them to discipleship. His kingdom is much better strengthened by attempting to be faithful and to teach and call to repentance where we are. When this is not possible, we should quietly seek a setting where this can be done. There is little benefit in attempting to get all the faithful together in one group, nor is it necessarily God's purpose. His kingdom is built here in less than the best circumstances because it is being built by less than perfect people. His marvelous testimony and grace are demonstrated in this way--through imperfect people.

James and Betty Beery
Williamsport, Indiana

OLD BRETHREN MEETING HOUSES PAST AND PRESENT

THE MIWUK CHURCH

When several Old Brethren families moved about seventy miles from Modesto, California, east to Tuolumne County in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, they at first met in homes once a month. Members and friends from the neighborhood and from the Modesto area came for a service on the second Sunday, and the other three meetings of the month continued in the Salida meeting house near Modesto.

As the numbers increased, homes were too small for the crowd, and in 1961-63 the brethren built a rustic style meeting house on a lot donated by Brother Paul Balsbaugh near the growing subdivision known as MiWuk Village. The building

measures 32 feet by 40 feet with a small wing for restrooms. A full basement, unfinished at first, was a place for Sunday dinners and an occasional social event. The building is finished outside in cedar siding and inside with natural "knotty" pine. A steep roof accommodates heavy snowfall at this 5000 foot level.

The construction of the meeting house was almost all done by donated labor. A number of our German Baptist brethren helped much in laying blocks for the basement, planting shrubs, and helping build in general. Brother Paul Balsbaugh donated wrought iron rails around outside retaining walls as well as linoleum for the auditorium.

For a time the Sierra Pines German Baptist congregation used this house for meetings until their own meeting house was finished in 1975.

In 1979 the brethren established for their children the Old Brethren Christian School, which has met for twenty years in the basement of the meeting house. Modern lighting was installed, and the basement was partially finished with a sheetrock ceiling and used carpet for the cement floor. As years went by, improvements were made: insulation in the ceilings of basement and auditorium, and better carpeting, painted walls, and acoustic tile ceiling for the school room.

The school was open to neighbors' children and increased from eleven students in 1979 to twenty-three in 1999. Singings, school open house, and other special events took place in the schoolroom basement.

Five weddings have been held in the MiWuk Church: Fred and Erma Miller, 1965; Glen and Lois Shirk, 1966; Wayne and Linda Crawmer, 1972; Joe and Sherry Cover, 1974; and Bill and Marilyn Miller, 1983.

God blessed our mountain families; more moved in; families increased; and in 1998 the need for more space for both church and school became apparent. Expansion seemed

impractical on the small, sloping lot, so the building was sold to a church congregation whose property bordered ours. Because of the generous donations of the late Paul Balsbaugh and his wife Blanche, 1/4 of the selling price was returned to Blanche and her family.

At present, the MiWuk Meeting House is still being used for services and school. However, escrow closed the last days of 1998. We have free use of the building for all of 1999. Then another location must be established, and the MiWuk Old Brethren Meeting House will be history.

Lovefeasts for our congregation were always held at Salida, but we have precious memories of God's blessings on worship, fellowship, preaching, and instruction in this special place.

Families living in this community included the Crawmers, Covers, Hitches, Millers, and later the Taylors, Browns, and Johnsons. --L.C.

This article appeared in The Pilgrim, May-June, 1963:

Special dedication and opening services were conducted Sunday, May 26, in the newly constructed church at MiWuk Village, California. Two services were held, the first at 10 A.M. which was followed by a noon pot-luck luncheon. Afternoon services were held at 2:30 P.M.

Elders Daniel F. Wolf, Paul Clark, and Joseph I. Cover conducted the service, Elder Christy Cover being unable to attend.

Both services were well attended by local neighbors and Christian friends, as well as many from the Modesto area.

Elder Paul Balsbaugh, of the Old German Baptist Brethren assisted by leading the devotions in the afternoon service.

The day will long be remembered as a memorable occasion by those of us who enjoyed the inspirational sermons and Christian fellowship together.

Construction of the building was started about two years ago, and now that it is completed, we wish to extend a cordial invitation to everyone to come and worship with us. Our regular appointments are at 10 A.M. on the second and fourth Sunday of each month.

Again we express our appreciation and gratitude to all those who have so faithfully and generously given of their time, labor, and means for the construction of the building and landscaping of the surrounding areas.

We pray that this effort may be a blessing to the community, and redound to the glory of God through the furtherance of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Marvin Crawmer
Long Barn, California

SPRING MEETING NOTICES

Bradford, Ohio April 3,4
Wakarusa, Indiana April 24,25
Annual Meeting Salida, California May 21,22,23

BIRTHS

SAVAGE - A daughter, Rozella Grace Arline, born February 5 to Dale and Jodi Savage of Gettysburg, Ohio.

BROWN - A daughter, Melody Joy, born February 19 to Mark and Betsy Brown of Sonora, California.

CABLE - A son, Luke Daniel, born February 20 to Larry and Leanna Cable of Dayton, Ohio.

ROYER - A son, Gilbert James, born February 25 to Sam and Rosanna Royer of Nappanee, Indiana.

MARTIN - A daughter, Lana Justine, born March 1 to Kevin and Ina Martin of New Paris, Indiana.

HUFFMAN - A son, Eli Eugene, born March 1 to Philip and Rhoda Huffman of New Lebanon, Ohio.

EVERYTHING

Oh Lord, I am nothing without You;
Of myself I am utterly weak;
But thanks be to God, all is not lost
If only after Christ I will seek.

For Jesus is always the answer
To the troubles and trials of life;
If we would only but seek Him,
He would put an end to the strife.

But Jesus is also seeking us;
We must open the doors of our heart,
For if we leave any door closed,
Of Him we cannot be a part.

So, dear friend, do not despair;
To despair is to close the door.
Let your heart and His be united in one;
Let Jesus be everything and more.

Julie Wemken
Waterford, California

FITTING SUPPLY

"As thy days, so shall thy strength be." (Deut. 33:25)

All our need, Father, Thou canst supply,
Thine hand outstretching at Thy child's cry;
Thy grace gives sweetly just what is fit,
When nights are darkest, Thy stars are lit.

Arms everlasting, weakness embrace;
Giving for weariness, sweet resting place;
Wings overspreading offer retreat,
Covers from tempest, shadow from heat.

In paths perplexing Thy way-marks show,
When rain clouds gather, shineth Thy bow;
Springs in dry places surely arise;
Blossoming deserts give glad surprise.

Balm for our bruises, cleansing for stain,
Food for our fainting, from Thee we gain.
Fulness of blessing Thou canst bestow,
Such sure provision Thy children know.

By Edith E. Smyth

Selected by Murray Brillinger

from the 1935 "Golden Grain Almanac"

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

What God "hath said" shall come to pass. This fact and truth is a blessing and strength to all that have put their faith and trust in what God "hath said." They know it will come to pass. The proof of *believing* in what God "hath said" is how we *respond* to what He "hath said." The results that follow will then be the evidence.

Man's reaction to the Biblical, historical account of creation reveals his proneness to doubt God. The results of this is man's continuous reminder of not believing in what He "hath said." Christ has revealed to man what will come to pass. Christ has declared that in time He will return and receive those that have proven His sovereignty and have declared His will in all generations, and will take them to heaven where His dwelling

place is. After this ". . . the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." (II Thess. 1:7,8)

This reveals two classes of people: those that choose to not know God, and those that know but do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. Their destiny is the same.

Obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ is proving God's sovereignty in the midst of a crooked and perverse world, in that God is delivering them and their children from the powers of evil and darkness, and hath received them into the kingdom of light and salvation. (Acts 2:39, Col. 1:13) Man's effort to prove God's sovereignty outside of obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ is proving its own fate in the loss of deliverance from the powers of evil for them and their posterity. Satan is powerless to deceive those that keep themselves in God's love. (Jude 21)

"As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made *perfect in one*; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." (John 17:18-23)

Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

What would Jesus do?

I wonder, "What would Jesus do?"
If He were here today;
If He were put into my place,
I wonder what He'd say.

I wonder if He'd leave His friends
Just to go and say, "Hi,"
To a new girl in the corner
That seemed a little shy.

Or maybe all the ones He's with
Were leaving one boy out.
I wonder if He'd do the same
And laugh and point and shout.

Wonder if He'd fit in the crowd,
Or would He stand alone--
Stand up for what He thought was right
Or with the rest be blown.

If you'll be truthful with yourself,
I'm sure you'll quickly find
That Jesus would be friends to all
And leave no one behind.

We need to live and always ask,
"What's honest, brave, and true?"
We need to judge our hearts each day
By "What would Jesus do?"

Regina Bayer
Dayton, Ohio

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Joseph's Dream

The Joseph who lived long ago had dreams that are recorded in the Bible. But the Joseph in this story is a little boy who lives now. This is the dream he had one night, with a few details changed so you can understand it.

He dreamed that he was playing on the living room floor when he noticed a really bright light filling the front porch. Big brother Timothy was sitting in a chair, reading. As Joseph looked up toward heaven, he tried to tell Timothy "Bye," but he couldn't get it said. No one else was around, so he couldn't tell them "Bye." Then the dream was over.

Later, though, he began thinking about what heaven would be like, and what it might feel like to go up to heaven. It was a rather scary thought to think of going to heaven alone. Running to Mother, he asked, "Can't you go with me when I go to heaven?"

Mother thought a bit, then said, "Well, Joseph, it doesn't usually happen that people go to heaven together, unless Jesus comes and all of us go at the same time."

"But I'm scared to go alone," Joseph said. He had a worried frown on his face.

"Jesus will go with you, Joseph," Mother said. "He's gone from earth to heaven before, so He knows the way better than I do. He can take better care of you than I can."

Joseph's face relaxed, and he ran back to play with his tractor and to think about Jesus taking him to heaven. He heard Mother in the kitchen singing:

Oh, young pilgrims, are you weary
Of the roughness of the way?
Does your strength begin to fail you,
And your vigour to decay?

THE PILGRIM

Jesus, Jesus will go with you;
He will lead you to His throne:
He who dyed His garments for you,
And the wine-press trod alone.

(#480 in our Hymnal)

Linda Frick
Gettysburg, Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

If we believe what we profess--
That heaven passes all in bliss--
Then should we fear that home to gain
Where pilgrims rest from toil and pain? L.C.

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from
fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

FOR ME

See the Saviour in the garden
Agonizing, bowed in prayer.
Not a soul to bear His burden,
Not a heart His grief to share.
Listen to His earnest pleading;
Sweat as drops of blood I see.
Oh! that prayer pervaded heaven;
And that prayer included me.

See Him hated, scorned, derided,
Thorns upon His sacred head.
Meekly, with a heart of pity,
No reviling word He said.
Hear the mob demanding, shouting,
"Crucify Him," let it be.
Still His heart is filled with mercy,
And that mercy reaches me.

Now the cruel nails have pierced Him,
And upon the cross He hangs.
Fiercest pain His body wracking,
But the deepest of His pangs
Is the stroke which justice tenders;
Its demands He satisfies.
Now He gives His life a ransom.
Yes, for me, for me He dies.

Miriam Sauder
From *Spiritual Hymns*

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SLEEP ON NOW

The setting is "Gethsemane, the olive press
(And why so called, let Christians guess,)
Fit name, fit place, where vengeance strove,
And gripped and grappled hard with love."

It is night, and most of Jerusalem is sleeping. But Judas is very much awake having made his treacherous deal with the priests. He is on his way through Jerusalem with a motley band of men to point out the Savior and effect His arrest. The destination is this garden of Gethsemane where Jesus and His disciples would be passing the night.

In the garden an earnest voice is heard pleading with the Father: "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." The owner of the voice is Jesus. Perspiration is pouring down His face like blood, soaking His garments. Now He is on His face in agony seeing before Him the humiliation and defilement of "being made sin for us." "Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree" is soon again to find fulfillment, this time as the spotless Lamb of God takes our place on the cross of suffering and death.

The sinless Savior rises from His place of prayer. A short distance away are Peter and the sons of Zebedee, "the sons of thunder." But where is the thunder now? Where are the bold words of Peter, "Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee" uttered only a few hours before? It's been a big day and a busy week. There was so much to remember--the time of triumph when the Savior rode into Jerusalem, the skilful, truthful answers Jesus had given the deceitful questions of the Jews, the clearing out of the money makers in the temple, the

mystery of the supper this very evening. . . The peaceful Sea of Galilee was far away.

But even that very day the Savior had packed the time with what sounded like last minute instructions to His disciples. Surely He could not be leaving them. His Kingdom was destined to flourish--grow and fill the earth. And they were to be kingpins in it! So they reasoned. Their hearts were full, but their heads were heavy.

Jesus came to the sleepy group. "What, could ye not watch with me one hour?" (He knew them so well.) "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Even these sober words could not ward off the sleep that dulled them. Three times Jesus left them to pray the same dreadful words. When He came the third time and found them asleep as before, He told them, "Sleep on now, and take your rest; behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

We know the rest of the story. Throughout the night Jesus suffered trial, derision, buffeting, and condemnation. He carried His cross to Calvary, hung there in suffering, and died accomplishing our salvation. But He rose again in triumph with the suffering past and the prospect before Him of "bringing many sons to glory."

We become sleepy, too; is it not so? Sleep is good for the body. "He giveth his beloved sleep." Jesus said, "Sleep on now and take your rest." He knew their need for rest. But there is another sleep that is dangerous and not for rest. When we sleep spiritually, we are not on guard watching, but are vulnerable to the attacks of Satan. Paul warned, "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep." Jesus charged them, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." A severe penalty was given to a sentry or watchman that slept at

his post. A watchman not watching is like salt without savour or light that is darkness.

We can stay awake today and watch with Jesus. He is right now applying to the hearts of His people the cleansing blood of His cross that will mean their salvation. Our part is to tell the good news of this grace of God that reaches out to all. We are to be awake and aware, ready to encourage and to be used.

Parents can't save their children, but they can teach them of the Savior. Alert parents take every opportunity to press home the responsibility of each individual to hear and heed the Gospel. Respect for authority is one of the early lessons each must learn.

One of the modern dangers is growing sleepy when we drive a car. We guard against it with NoDoz, coffee, and adequate rest because an accident on a high speed highway can be so disastrous. But is it any less serious when souls are at stake instead of bodies? The daily cares of this life crowd in and seem more vivid and vital than the hazards that threaten us for eternity.

Jesus rose from the dead. He tells us, "Because I live, ye shall live also." Reminders of His resurrection are all around us in the form of pictures, observances, and the very awakening of nature in pleasant springtime. Let us not miss the vital spiritual issues in this last year of the 20th Century since Jesus was here and the 6th Millennium since creation. Let us not grow sleepy but remain alert and awake to what the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus means to a dying world. --L.C.

SPRING MEETING NOTICES

Bradford, Ohio April 3,4

Wakarusa, Indiana April 24,25

Annual Meeting Salida, California May 21,22,23

All are welcome. Come and bring friends.

THE SPIRIT OF THE RISEN LORD

Is Easter only a celebration in memory of Christ's death and resurrection? Eberhard Arnold writes (1919) that it is much more--a time which should call us to renewed repentance and give us the strength to live "in the spirit of the risen Lord" every day of the year.

Christians have often been attacked on account of their call to repentance. They are told that the unceasing accusation of the conscience paralyses man's initiative, takes away his freedom, and destroys his personality. Certainly one would have to come to this conclusion if one were to experience only the consciousness of sin by itself in its unfathomable depth. But the repentance called for by the saving proclamation of Christ cannot be separated from the proclamation of faith. The message of the cross is inseparably one with the proclamation of the risen One.

Luther called for daily remorse and repentance because he experienced again and again the unconditional certainty of possessing the gift of salvation. It was his ever renewed experience of faith that no one could accuse or condemn God's elect. He knew himself to be justified by God Himself. He experienced the presence of the Christ who interceded for him with all that His death signified and with all the powers of His resurrected life.

One of the things that cannot be explained in the experience of a Christian is that the deepest recognition of sin and the absolute freedom from all condemnation are completely one within him. The source of all inner freedom and of all joyful faith lies in God and Christ, while the murky depths of remorse and repentance are found only in ourselves.

It is the soul's instinct of self-preservation which holds man back from complete honesty about his moral condition.

Without the strength of the Gospel, the unrestrained insight into our own helplessness and badness would lead us to despair; for it is just when we attempt to apply the strictest self-discipline and firmest moral code that we are faced with the absolute impossibility of justifying ourselves before our own conscience and in the eyes of God. The Gospel wants the truth about our condition to come completely out into the open. At the same time, it offers us the one and only possibility of having a clear and joyful conscience and a merciful God in the midst of the deepest self-recognition. What we are unable to do with our moral and religious efforts, God has done: He has sent His Son.

Faith in this greatest fact of God's love cannot be shaken by anything, once we have grasped and experienced it. Even though all men speak against us, even though they accuse and condemn us, we believers in God and in Christ still cannot be discouraged. In such a situation we feel more than ever what it means to have a firm support for our trust and what He, in whom we cannot despair because He is the unclouded manifestation of the love of God, is to us.

However hard the times, however low the ebb of moral and religious powers, this one fact remains: God gave His own Son for us. If, in the ebb and flow of the struggles emerging from the demands for justice and moral regeneration, we cannot find any people who in their actual lives realize God's nature through the spirit of pure love, still Jesus remains the only One whose living and dying was love become deed, and whose living and dying was real redemption for the whole man and for every man.

This historical fact has become our spiritual experience of the present. An active proof of love, it means for us the certainty that God, in giving us Jesus, gives us everything. Because perfect love once became a deed and a man--in history-fellowship with this man means the firm guarantee that the

spirit of His love will become life and reality everywhere--hence here and now as well. Once we experience the life and death of His Son as the redemptive act of His love, we can no longer despair of God's love; we can no longer question His intercession for us.

However, we would misuse and belittle the certainty of this love if its experience did not go hand in hand with the complete destruction of our own vanity and self-will. The collapse of our national pride, our self-accusation because of our guilt in history, the disintegration of our cultural values in state and church, and the repeated evidence that it is impossible to produce with purely human powers the conditions of peace and justice we long for; all these experiences are part of God's strategic plan to convince us that we need grace.

Grace is the sovereign gift; we can do nothing to acquire it. That inner state in which it seems to us that everything we were clinging to has broken down is the preparation we need before we can receive the Christ. Only when everyone accuses us, only when we condemn ourselves in the sharpest way, are we in a condition of inner readiness for the message of salvation: "Christ Jesus is here, He who died, yes, He who rose again; He is at the right hand of God, He intercedes for us." (Rom. 8:34) When Christ manifests His powers of life in us, everything that burdened and oppressed us is overcome.

The invincible power of the early Christians sprang from the fact that they believed in the presence of that same Christ who rose from the grave and ascended to the Father. We can believe in the powers of Jesus' death and the strength of His resurrection only when we experience the joy of the immediate presence of Christ.

The first Christians lived by the promise of the risen One: "I am with you always, even to the end of the world." All their meetings were permeated by this certain faith. The fact that the risen Lord was experienced through His personal presence

brought His moral earnestness and His commitment to love so close to the early Christians that they lived completely under this influence. The awareness of Jesus' presence was the secret of their strength. They experienced the risen One as the Spirit present among them. It was the sanctifying effect of this Spirit which manifested Jesus to them, from His resurrection on, as the Son of God, for it was through Him that they were freed from all bondage as one can only be freed by the Son of God. This spirit brought a complete freedom in the use of all man's gifts and powers, because the influence of the Spirit is direct. He awakened the soul to its vocation without making it dependent on others. He makes Himself one with our spirit to assure us of His witness concerning God's Son. In this Spirit every Christian movement and every active Christian possesses the personal presence of the risen One, the eternal power of His action, and the boundless love of His heart, in the knowledge that His teaching is valid and will never pass away.

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HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. (Mat. 10:29-31)

Mrs. Civilla Martin, author of this gospel hymn text, tells of a visit in 1904 to a bedridden Christian friend. Mrs. Martin asked the woman if she ever got discouraged because of her physical condition. Her friend responded quickly, "Mrs. Martin, how can I be discouraged when my heavenly Father watches over each little sparrow, and I know He loves and cares for me." Within just a few minutes Mrs. Martin completed the writing of her new text, which has since been a source of much encouragement to many of God's people.

It is interesting that our Lord chose the most common of all birds, sparrows of little value, to teach a profound truth: in God's eyes, no one is insignificant! He is vitally concerned with even the details of our lives. Notice also that the Bible uses another bird to teach this inspiring truth: Those who hope in the Lord will soar on wings like eagles. (Isa. 40:31) With an awareness of God's concern for our lives and the promise of His enabling power to live victoriously, why should we be afraid?

"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines. . . Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." (Hab. 3:17,18)

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely And long for Heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He;
His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubt and fears;
Though by the path He leadeth, But one step I may see:
His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

Whenever I am tempted, Whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing, When hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to Him; From care He sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy; I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

Rest and rejoice in the assurance of God's love. Seek to bring a word of cheerful encouragement to some sick or invalid individual. Remind him of God's concern and the truth of this song.

Selected by Ken Johnson

COME SEE THE PLACE WHERE THE LORD LAY

Matthew 28:6

Come see the place where Jesus lay;
Visit the empty grave
Where the stone door was rolled away;
Jesus arose to save.
See in the tomb the garments white,
Folded and laid aside;
Changed for the robes of dazzling light,
Ever on Him abide.

Come see the place the soldiers keep
Watchful by day and night;
Earthquaking power brings dreadful sleep,
Jesus arose, the light.
Death cannot hold the Prince of power,
Rome's mighty seal is vain;
In the great resurrection hour;
Praise to the Lamb once slain.

Come see the place where angels wait,
Comfort and courage give;
He is not here by death's dark gate;
Jesus arose to live!
Leaving death's gloomy shades of night,
Bound for eternal day;
See in the tomb a ray of light
Driving our fears away.

Come see the place of death's despair,
See all his hosts of slain;
Jesus brought hope and victory there,
Jesus arose to reign.
Death's mighty power of darkness done,
Death shall be cast away;
Jesus the Victor, glory won,
Safe in eternal day.

J.I. Cover

GOD'S KINGDOM

God created man with a will and with the freedom to choose what he willed. God would not be giving him free choice had He not allowed a spirit to contest his will.

For God to give man this freedom was the highest honor He could have bestowed on man. Without this freedom, it would have been impossible for God and man to have a relationship that would bless and bring fulfillment. God's kingdom was established. Earth was a paradise. There was nothing to mar happiness. There were no rude alarms; peace and tranquillity reigned. God and man had a glorious relationship. This was because man chose to have it so.

But in time man yielded to the spirit that opposed God. Man's choice to oppose God changed the atmosphere of the universe. Nature's forces brought destruction and fear, and above all, suffering and death for all living things and separation between God and man. Men separated from God were now on their own. They began to multiply, and this soon developed into a lawless society which created a need for a governing authority. This developed into a rivalry which destroys the kingdom of men. Therefore all earthly kingdoms fall.

In the midst of this, God established a kingdom through the posterity of one man, the patriarch Abraham. This also came to an end because it could not change the spirit in fallen man, although it served its purpose in revealing God's sovereignty, and the righteousness that He requires of all men.

When the fullness of time appeared, God established a kingdom that is eternal by His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The eternal security of this kingdom is sealed by the Spirit of the living God by destroying the power of death and hell in the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

Jesus pled with man that they would repent and believe the gospel of the kingdom, for this is eternal life. This statement encompasses the total requirement of a valid passport to enter this kingdom and to attain citizenship. Repentance is crucifixion of the flesh; to believe is faith that proves this death by acts of the will. Only when the flesh is crucified can it love. Only in this can we fulfill the first and second commandments.

Acts of the will that prove our citizenship:

Matthew 18:3: Become as little children

John 3:5: Born of water and of the Spirit

Acts 14:22: Through much tribulation

Romans 14:17: Righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost

I Thessalonians 2:12: Walk worthy of God

II Thessalonians 1:4: Patience and faith in all persecution

Hebrews 12:28: Reverence and godly fear

Revelation 1:9: Companions in tribulation

Kenneth Martin

LACK OF COMPASSION ENDS IN TRAGEDY

Many government-sponsored doctors in Eastern Europe pay very little attention to a patient unless they are given some money or a gift in advance. This is not the official policy, but it's the way it works. If someone needs to have an operation or see a doctor, they may be taken to the hospital and left lying there in pain unless they have money or something else to win the doctor's favor.

Vili Lungu, our contact in Ukraine, related the following sad, but true, story. It emphasizes the selfishness and lack of concern some doctors in Eastern Europe have and the lamentable level of medical care many of our brothers and sisters experience there.

A boy in Ukraine was seriously injured in a street accident. Some bystanders who saw what happened took him to the hospital. They didn't know who the child was; they just dropped him off and went on their way.

The nurses realized the boy was in very critical condition. They went to the doctor, who was in another room, and said, "There's a boy here who was in an accident. He needs your attention; you need to see him as soon as you can!"

The doctor asked, "Who's with the boy?"

"No one."

"There are no parents or anyone with him?"

"No."

The doctor realized that if there was no one with the child, there would be no benefits for him. So he said, unconcernedly, "I'll be there." He kept on working.

A while later the nurses came back and tried again to tell the doctor how critical the boy's case was, and urged him to come right away. Again he just said, "I'll be there when I can." But he didn't bother to even look at the boy.

After a while, the boy died.

Upon hearing this, the doctor finally went to look at the child, and discovered the boy was *his own son*.

From Christian Aid Ministries Newsletter

FOR YOUTH: The Measuring Rod of God

If you have never read the story titled "Measuring Day," we would encourage you to do so. It shows us that many times our measuring rod (judgments) of others is often inaccurate. God measures us by the attitude of our hearts. We measure by what we see with our eyes because we can't know for sure what is in man's heart as God can. Actually, we aren't called upon to see how others measure up. That is God's business because He is just and very wise.

We feel sad when we fall into the temptation to measure another or hear anyone else do this. The only one made happy is our adversary when this is done because he hates God and His just ways.

God's measuring rod is by "The Power of His Word," "The Blood of Christ," "Through Prayer," and "A Surrendered Life," which, Lord willing, may be titles for future articles. When we are busy studying and applying God's Word in our life, we realize our many weaknesses and don't feel comfortable measuring up others.

Even as children, we appreciated a saying Mother had on the wall: "There is so much bad in the best of us and so much good in the worst of us that it hardly behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us." We all know this to be true, but many times "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." We just want to encourage all of us to try to overcome this dreadful temptation. When we do lower another's reputation by unkind words, or slight and hurt another by unkind deeds, let us try to undo the wrong. God's measuring rod would be to do to others as you would have others do to you.

You may think this should be written for the children's page, but really, even we older ones need to be reminded of this. This temptation follows us all our life; we just aren't as open with it as children. You are in the bloom of youth, and your character is being developed. We encourage you to "be strong in the grace that is in thee," as Paul told Timothy. This is good instruction for the girls too. Keep high standards in a humble manner because "Pride goeth before a fall," we read in Proverbs. God's measuring rod, His Word, tells us we should "esteem others better than ourselves."

Try to be a good example as true believers in Christ Jesus, our Savior, walking in His footsteps. Ask yourself the question when temptation comes your way or a decision must be met: "What would Jesus do or say?" We are praying for you.

James and Betty Beery Williamsport, Indiana

THE PILGRIM
CHILDREN'S PAGE
Window Washing

15

Crunch - crunch - rattle - rattle. Cheryl's job was a noisy one. It was a lovely spring day, and Mother planned to wash windows. She and Kathy were gathering their buckets, rags, and ladders, while Cheryl's job was to crunch up old newspaper pages. Mother knew that newspaper could be used to make windows shine.

Cheryl was busily crunching papers when she noticed a truck drive into the neighbor's driveway. The truck had "Winslow's Window Washing Service" painted on the side. Two men hopped out of the truck, quickly set ladders up at windows, and began to work. They had special equipment, and it took very little time to do a window. Cheryl was fascinated--so much so that she forgot to keep crunching newspapers.

Meanwhile, Mother and Kathy were on ladders washing windows with rags and rubbing them dry with the crunched newspapers. Suddenly, they had used all Cheryl had ready. "Keep crunching, Cheryl," Mother called. "We're ready for more."

"Why can't we get those men to wash our windows?" Cheryl asked. "It would save us so much time and work. I hate to crunch these old papers!"

"Well, there are two reasons that I think of right off," answered Mother as she wrung water out of her rag. "The first is that God gave us strong, healthy bodies so we could work. Do you think He would be pleased if we didn't use our bodies to do our work?"

"The second reason is that it costs a lot of money to hire window-washers. Even though we might have the money to pay window-washers, that would not be making good use of it. Instead, we can use that money to help someone who is really in need; someone who has a big hospital bill to pay, for instance.

Since Mrs. Barnes gives us these old papers, and we use worn-out clothes for rags, it costs us almost nothing to wash the windows ourselves. We are trying to be good stewards of the money God lets us have. Now, please crunch more newspapers for us, quickly."

Obediently, Cheryl began crunching newspapers as fast as she could. Her mind was as busy as her hands, as she thought about what Mother had said. She remembered part of a verse Daddy had read from the Bible just this morning, ". . . let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." (Eph. 4:28b)

Linda Frick, Gettysburg. Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

A pilgrim follows Christ the Lord,
Obedient to His Holy Word;
No task too low, no day too drear,
No step too steep, no need for fear -L.C.

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from
fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

PENTECOST

Great was the day, the joy was great,
When the devout disciples met;
While on their heads the Spirit came,
And sat like tongues of cloven flame.

What gifts, what miracles He gave!
And power to kill and power to save!
Furnished their tongues with wondrous words
Instead of shields and spears and swords.

Thus armed, He sent the champions forth,
From east to west, from south to north;
Go, and assert your Saviour's cause,
Go, spread the mystery of His cross.

These weapons of the holy war,
Of what almighty force they are
To make our stubborn passions bow
And lay the proudest rebel low!

Nations, the learned and the rude,
Are by these heavenly arms subdued,
While Satan rages at his loss,
And hates the doctrine of the cross.

Great King of grace, my heart subdue;
I would be led in triumph too,
A willing captive to my Lord,
And sing the victories of His word.

Isaac Watts From *Spiritual Hymns*

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MOTHER

If one of the saddest English words is "alone," one of the dearest is "mother." For those of us who had good mothers, these two words are opposites. A beautiful picture is that of a child happily running to his mother's arms for comfort. The opposite is a time when children were cruelly torn from a mother's arms as when slave families were separated--sold to different masters. Whether servants or queens, mothers are mothers, and they resist separation from their children.

What are mothers like?

Mothers care. Though she is our daughter and it touches our hearts, we see this motherly care when Ina plunged into the manure lagoon up to her neck to rescue her son Kirt from drowning in the filth. Typical of mother love? Without a doubt. Some mothers might shrink from the thought, but nearly all would do the same thing.

Mothers are capable. Kirt had stopped breathing. He had drawn filth into his lungs. But his mother was able (by God's grace) to get him revived until the doctor could take over. Mothers are used to solving their children's problems. I remember watching my mother sew patches on my trousers. She knew just how to do it, having had so much practice! To this day I could describe her skilful method. She could also cut fingernails with her scissors, quickly set a table with good food, bathe a couple of small boys in the tub at the same time, carefully smear iodine on a cut with sympathy for the stinging, pilot the Model A over the narrow, country roads, and make sure we had clean clothes and clean ears.

Mothers remember. They remember their children's lunches, their coats, and their homework. They remember their

children. In Isaiah 49:15, the comparison is made of a mother's remembering her child to God's remembering Zion. "Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." Of course, God's concern is greater, but the fact that He used this comparison shows the magnitude of a mother's remembering love.

Mothers are ingenious. They come up with games, pictures, storybooks and "what have you" for the entertainment of their little ones. Perhaps it is somewhat in self-defense to keep the children occupied but nevertheless, it is there, a resource of value that we fathers cannot match.

Mothers run. They have to. From emergencies to quick meals, mothers produce the goods. If she is not running to provide, she is running to protect. One of my friends, the father of five boys, said, "You don't teach them to walk; you let them find it out!" But that was from a father.

Mothers sacrifice. What mother has not lost sleep to care for her child? A sad case was reported in the *Budget* when in Romania last month, a Christian mother of seven in her early thirties died from a blow on her head when she fainted from malnutrition. She had been giving up her small share of food so that her children could eat. The one reporting said that, though there was no food, her one room house was clean and tidy, and her children showed exceptionally good training. She was a devout Christian, but her husband was not. Just the day before, CAM had been distributing food in the village, but had not realized this home was there with so much need. We have examples in the animal kingdom of sacrifice and care for their young, but they cannot match that of our human, godly mothers.

Mothers want the best for their children. Surely this is nearly universal. But it is especially noteworthy when Christian mothers *know* what is best and direct their children to the Savior. Susanna Wesley, a famous and exemplary mother, had a goal that her sons would make an impact on the world for

God's Kingdom. She did not know how it would be done, but she trained her children and prayed and trusted God. The result was John Wesley, who set records as a tireless preacher, traveling over 250,000 miles mostly on horseback, and giving sometimes four or five sermons a day for over fifty years; and Charles Wesley who was famous for the hymns he composed--over 6,000, many of which are used by most churches today. Some precious ones include "Father, I Stretch My Hands to Thee," "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," "Arise, My Soul, Arise," and "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing!"

Hannah, the godly mother of the prophet Samuel, dedicated her son to the service of God. He anointed King Saul and King David, and served as a link between the Judges and the Kingdom of Israel. Halley comments, "All honor to his mother, Hannah. A noble example of motherhood, her son turned out to be one of the noblest and purest characters in history."

Other biblical examples of godly mothers could be noted: Ruth, the great-grandmother of King David; Sarah, an aged mother who "judged him faithful who had promised" and was delivered of a child (Isaac) when she was past age; Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist; and above all, Mary, the virgin mother of Jesus Christ the Savior. Mary's words show her submission to God: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

We can find godly, Christian mothers even closer-- in our own crowd. I am married to one, and so are many of you men who read this. They care; they run; they remember; they train, trust, and pray. They include those dear sisters who have no children of their own but give themselves for the children of others: their nieces, nephews, and other little ones.

Praise our Heavenly Father for our godly mothers. --L.C.

A mother's arms are made of tenderness, and children sleep well in them. --Victor Hugo

WANTS AND DESIRES--OR NEEDS

What do they have in common? Generally speaking, when you desire something for the satisfying of your wants, you don't really need it. In a world of plenty, and freedom to purchase what we want, the Christian is under great pressure to make the proper choices in buying. Even if you don't have the money to purchase what you desire to have, the seller is seemingly very willing to give you the credit on the spot in order to supply your wants at the moment. They know full well that this desire often is swallowed up or forgotten in some new desire that comes along. Therefore they pursue a tactic that entraps the impulsive one into agreements that often would have been avoided if pressure was not involved. I have found it particularly irritating to go to a store with the attitude of comparing price and quality with the needs at hand, only to be insulted with the thinking that if they can convince me that I really desire the product and that because I want it, I need it, therefore finalizing the sale. Oh, and just because it is more than you can afford right now, not to worry; we'll gladly let you put the remainder on credit and pay for it over the next few months. Often the unsuspecting or the less prudent one can be caught in something that later will be regretted. Also, it is very tempting to allow our desires to override our better judgment when put in the position of being able to have what we want even if we do not have the money to buy it.

I can recall a time when I was watching for a pickup in the right price range. In a small town I found one that fit the need and was also in the general price range, though a little more than I would pay. Sitting at the salesman's desk, (after a short drive in the pickup) I found myself staring at lien papers and a pen being given me to fill them out. This man actually thought that because it was what I wanted, I would immediately sign on

to something that was more than I could afford just to satisfy my desires.

People today will spend tremendous amounts on credit cards just to satisfy this empty craving inside for more possessions. And until we learn to recognize the difference between wants and needs, we can be caught in the trap of spending to satisfy desire. The sales pitch of today is, "You want it; we have it; and you can have it right now."

There is really not long term satisfaction in something that is acquired only to fill an immediate desire. Not only do we need to be careful that we don't buy things we can't afford, but also that we don't buy things that we don't need just because we can afford them. I'm not saying that we should never buy things that are not critical to our survival, but that we should be careful of buying things to be noticed as a financially successful individual. I really believe that there is a difference in spending the necessary amount to acquire quality, and the extra amount to stand out as successful.

I struggle with the temptation of not being content with just the necessity, but I want the necessity with style and comfort. In a land of abundance and opportunities that prevail to become well off in the financial world, we have a greater responsibility to use moderation in our spending. We do well when we make a purchase, to consider our needs and whether they are what motivates us or whether it is our desires that drive us to make this purchase. Remember always that all we have or are able to acquire is because of the Lord's abundant blessings, and ultimately we will have to give an answer for all that we do.

"All is thine, O Lord. Give us the wisdom to use it properly and to give Thee credit for all that is good."

Sincerely, John L. Beery
Williamsport, Indiana

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! . . . Surely every born again Christian can relate to that last phrase--that saved a wretch like me! This really was our state until we asked for the redeeming grace of our Savior Jesus Christ to save us from our sins. Over Romans 3 in my Bible is the heading "All Have Sinned." This is where we are outside of Christ. Verse 10 though 18 of that same chapter points out in very descriptive terms the condition of man without Jesus Christ. What Jesus did for every man on Calvary is truly amazing. His grace is sufficient for all.

Paul writing to the Corinthians (II Cor. 12) talks about his own struggles, and Jesus tells him (verse 9), "My grace is sufficient for thee. . . ." The song goes on: "I once was lost but now am found; Was blind but now I see." Praise God that we don't have to stay blind in sin but that our eyes can be opened to see and believe the wonderful things Jesus has done for every man. Grace and salvation through Jesus Christ are free, but we must respond by realizing our need for forgiveness, being baptized, and cleansed in His blood. Truly God's grace is amazing!

David Cover

Tuolumne, California

BIRTHS

WAGNER - A son, Joshua Kendall, born March 26 and received by adoption on April 13 to Eddie and Deann Wagner of Salida, California.

MARTIN - A daughter, Greta Brooke, born April 7 to Jon and Lisa Martin of Nappanee, Indiana.

BRUBAKER - A daughter, Brianna Janelle, born April 17 to Eric and Laura Brubaker of Tuolumne, California.

HISTORICAL HOW THE YEARLY MEETINGS WERE HELD

That they were at first held in the most simple manner, even as our ordinary council meetings have been held up to our own times, is evident from all the testimony we could gather. Brethren met on Friday morning before Pentecost and opened as usual by singing, exhortation, prayer, and perhaps reading the Scriptures. Having met in the fear of the Lord, and invited Him to preside over the meeting, and prayed for the Holy Spirit to guide and direct all hearts, they considered the meeting ready for business. Cases were presented and decided, questions asked and answered, all by word of mouth as in ordinary council meetings; there was no clerk chosen nor minute taken, and hence it is that our records are so meagre for the first twenty-five or thirty yearly Pentecostal meetings. When any important case or cases had been presented, it was answered afterward by letter to the church or churches that had presented them. Of these manuscript letters a goodly number yet extant have been collected with great care, and are embodied in this present work.

FIRST CHANGE

When in course of time it came to pass, that among many questions, also improper ones, were asked in the presence not only of a great number of brethren and sisters, but also of strangers, it was counseled and concluded that five, seven or more of the oldest ministers should, after opening the meeting, retire to a private place where those who had questions to ask or cases to present might present them; while at the same time younger ministers might exercise themselves in preaching, and edify the people. This order prevailed up to our own time, as many elder brethren can testify as well as the writer. Some few of those questions were privately answered; others were

answered by letter to the church concerned, and only questions of general interest were reserved for public discussion. There were some advantages and some disadvantages in this change, and it is hard to tell on which side was the preponderance. Before the change we believe, the council consumed but one day (Friday) in most cases; on Saturday was public worship during the day, and in the evening love feast, and on Lord's day (Pentecost) morning solemn worship, at the close of which the whole meeting was considered ended, and the people departed to their own homes about noon. Upon the whole, this first change worked well and was a judicious one. It seems to have given general satisfaction to the church for a great number of years even up to A.D. 1830 and 1831 where the writer was an eye and ear witness. To his certain knowledge, this improved yet simple manner of holding our yearly meetings still prevailed. Thus far no change or extension in the time has taken place. The meeting commenced Friday morning and broke up on Lord's day noon. We will try to set before our readers a simple description of what we witnessed at those two first Y.M.'s we ever attended among perhaps more than thirty such meetings at which we were present within thirty-six years past.

On Friday morning at an early hour, meeting commenced as usual. When worship was over, one of the oldest brethren made a brief statement, according to which it became the duty of the elders of the church where the Y.M. was held, to nominate those brethren who should receive the messages, etc. and conduct the business of the meeting. This nominating was done simply thus: the brother stepped up to what may be called the ministers' table, and with a sweep of his hand pointed out those seated behind that table as his and the church's choice, without naming them, and told them to follow him to a private place. When these arose in order to retire, some one mentioned that during their absence the congregation might be edified by preaching, which was done by those younger ministers who felt

disposed or were called upon to do so, one by one, until the elder brethren returned to the congregation, and business meeting was commenced, and continued, if necessary, till Saturday noon. Then after dinner, public worship began again, and in the evening the great love feast and communion was held, and on Lord's day morning (Pentecost) the solemn worship of God commenced at an early hour and continued till noon when the great congregation was dismissed, and dispersed after partaking of some refreshments. Thus the ordinary time consumed by those meetings had been only two days and a half.

By Elder Henry Kurtz

From *Brethren's Encyclopedia* compiled by O. C. Cripe, 1922

TREASURES IN HEAVEN

We hustle and bustle and hurry along;
We labor and struggle, scarce time for a song.
We want to serve Jesus but oft' we forget;
All earthly will perish when life's sun has set.

The things that today seem important to do,
Will seem mighty little when this life is through.
The work that was needful will matter not then.
What then is important till Christ comes again.

Let's daily praise Jesus through all that we do;
In labor or worship, let His love shine through.
Encourage and lift up the sad lonely one,
That they be encouraged to live for the Son.

For if we help others as onward we go,
God daily will bless us and cause us to grow;
And then when He calls us, our treasures will be
Where we will be living--in eternity.

James Beery, Williamsport, Indiana

GOD'S MERCY

It is only through God's love and mercy that man can be reconciled to God.

To be able to acknowledge God's mercy and respond to it in truth are the terms of salvation. Mercy received is an unmerited gift. To be able to respond to this with our emotions that empower us to repentance and obedience to the gospel is what ushers us in to the realm of God's love and worship.

To the believer, God's mercy is a daily experience and communication with Him. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." (Lam. 3:22,23)

God's mercy is extended to all people, but those that respond, know, and fear Him will receive the fullness of His mercy.

"But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children." (Psalm 103:17)

To respond to God's mercy is a salvation requirement. "Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man." (Pro. 3:3,4)

As God has proven His faithfulness in mercy, He calls us to the same. "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." (Matt. 5:7) "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful." (Luke 6:36)

The proof of God's promise and assurance of His mercy in the time of need is that all who have called on Him in truth *have* received His mercy.

All men are in need of mercy because of our inherited nature. To acknowledge this is an expression of humility. It

calls us to a position of subordination to the Giver. This then is the balm that restores our soul and bonds our lives to one another. This proves to the world in picture language the glory of our heavenly Father.

To exalt God's mercy, in truth, is declaring our inability to attain salvation ourselves. "Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy." (Psalm 33:18) "Let Israel hope in the Lord: for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption." (Psalm 130:7) "The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy." (Psalm 147:11)

To cry out for mercy can never come from a demanding spirit. To not be able to respond in thanksgiving and honor to the giver of mercy, either God or man, is proof that it has not blessed us spiritually.

The proof of being merciful: Luke 10:36,37.

The proof of being blessed by God's mercy: Luke 17:15; 18:13,14; IICor. 4:1; James 3:17.

The proof of not being able to receive God's mercy: Luke 16:24; 18:11,12,14.

The source of mercy is love; the act of mercy is sacrifice. "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." (Phil. 2:4) "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." (Jude 21)

Give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. (Psalm 107:1)

Kenneth Martin

Nappanee, Indiana

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Salida, California May 21, 22, 23

All are welcome. Come and bring your friends.

FOR YOUTH

Tame the Tongue (A true story)

The Oaks family of six were especially excited to be invited to Aunt Betty's home for Sunday dinner.

On the way to church that morning, fifteen year old Sarah quietly listened to the conversation of Father and Mother in the front seat. Father conversed to Mother how he was yearning for the morning message, and he knew the Lord would reveal something to them through the Holy Spirit.

Soon the sermon began. Brother Fred preached a firm and powerful message about "The Fear of the Lord." God wants us to reverence Him in godly fear. He told us about the people of the world who have *no* fear, and about the Christians who do *know* fear because they fear a loving and wise God who knows all things. Before long, the last song died away, the last prayer was prayed, and the entire congregation was dismissed in godly fear.

Soon the Oaks family were on their way to Aunt Betty's. Sarah could hardly wait as she hoped that she could help serve the dinner and help in the kitchen too.

Before long, others arrived too, making a large gathering of people to eat lunch and fellowship together. Sarah helped Aunt Betty prepare a table to set food on.

Soon Sister Rosie came into the kitchen with her arms full of food. Sarah stepped forward and asked, "May I help you?"

Sister Rosie replied, "No! Just get out of my way!"

Sarah's heart was torn. She started to walk out of the kitchen when Aunt Betty called her to stir the soup.

Poor Sarah was still heartbroken as she relayed the story to Mother that evening. Sarah wondered, "Rosie surely must not fear an awesome God!"

Young people, was it kind to speak like Rosie did? Shouldn't Rosie have been happy to know that someone offered to help her? What should Rosie have said to show that she was a Christian?

Young people and parents alike, let's be polite in our speech and conversation. Our words should be "always with grace, seasoned with salt." Kind words should always be spoken from a contrite heart of love.

A servant of Jesus Christ,
Shirley L. Frick

NOTE OF THANKS

We express our thanks for all the thoughts, prayers, cards, and financial aid we received over Lana's sickness and Kirt's accident. Surely the Lord was merciful to us. Let us continue to pray for each other.

Kevin and Ina Martin and family

WHO PLANTS A SEED

Who plants a seed plants faith and trust,
For only sun and rain
That comes with passing seasons
Can change the seed to grain.

Who plants a hope plants future days,
For only time can bring
The dream to fullest blossom,
The thrush to try his wing.

Who plants a seed plants faith in God,
For only He could know
How seeds and earth and sun and rain
Can make new gardens grow.

Ethelyn M. Kincher,
From *Seeking True Values*

CHILDREN'S PAGE

This, Too, Shall Pass Away

One look at the twins told why they were staying in bed all day. Edwin's and Edward's faces were covered with red spots. They had chicken pox! Their fever made them miserable, and their bodies itched all over. They tossed. They turned. They whimpered. They even got angry at each other sometimes.

Mother came into the room with a fresh drink for them. She also gave them some medicine to help them feel a little better. But that didn't stop the itching. "Don't scratch, boys," she reminded. "Scratching makes it take longer for the pox to heal, and might cause a permanent scar. I'll give you another soda bath after supper.

"But, Mother," wailed Edwin. "How can we stand to just lie here and itch?"

"The more we think about it, the harder it itches," added Edward. "It itches till it hurts. Please read us a story, Mother."

"Please, please do," echoed Edwin.

"Tell you what, boys. Suppose we make a motto to hang on the wall where you can see it. I'll bring in the folding table to work on, and you may watch me make it." Mother brought the table; then she gathered up cardboard, crayons, and markers. The twins watched closely as she began to use the blue crayon, then an eraser to make a feathered look around where the words would be. Around the outer edge, she used a blue marker to color a solid border.

"Now for the words," Mother said. "While that border dries, I'll go see if I can find a poem which uses the words I will put on the motto. You probably won't understand the poem, but you can understand these words."

While Mother was gone, Edward asked, "What words do you think she'll put on the motto?"

"Oh, maybe 'God Is Love' or 'The Lord Is My Shepherd,'" answered Edwin.

"Wrong!" said Mother as she returned. "Now, listen to this poem, then guess again." She read the poem to them, then picked up the red marker and began lettering the motto. After a few letters, Edwin caught on. "This, too, shall pass away!" he nearly shouted.

"Seeing this motto will remind you that your chicken pox won't itch forever. Even the red spots will disappear in a week or so." Mother hung the finished motto on a nail, smiled at the boys, and went to prepare supper.

Linda Frick, Gettysburg, Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

Lift the curtain, weary pilgrim,
When the day of life is long
Look beyond the present toiling,
Where is heard the better song.

Hymn 521

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

PRAISE YE THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for His is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear,
Now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings; yea, so gently sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen
How all thy longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.

Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.

Let the Amen
Sound Thy desires e'er hast gain:
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

By Joachim Neander

Translated by Catherine Winkworth

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SO VERY DEPENDENT

At tax time we all must fill out income tax forms, and one of the blanks calls for "number of dependents." How many dependents do you have? Or are **you** a dependent? A dependent is one who "depends" on another or needs to look to another for sustenance of some kind. We are all dependent upon God.

Psalm 104 speaks of this dependence of God's creation upon Him: "These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good. Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth." (verses 27-30) The writer exclaims (v. 24), "O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches."

We begin this life very, very dependent on our parents. Perhaps God wanted to demonstrate our dependence on Him when we are babes in Christ, for some of the created beings depend very little on their parents. But human babies would simply die without the care of adults. Even when we reach a measure of maturity in Christ, we still need Him every hour.

God promises to supply all our **needs**. The problem with us is sometimes determining whether what we want is really a need. But Jesus assures us that our Heavenly Father is more willing to give us good things than we fathers are to give good gifts to our children. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father

which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Mat. 7:11)

God wants us to acknowledge that we need Him. The hymn says: Father, I stretch my hands to Thee,
 No other help I know;
 If Thou withdraw Thyself from me,
 Ah! whither shall I go?

It is good to count the ways in which we are dependent upon God (if we can count that far!). Even the unbelievers depend on God for each breath and each morsel of food. There is no area of our lives in which we can say, "I am self-sufficient; I need no help."

Though it all comes from God, to lack natural food is almost unknown in our present setting. But this is a concern many have regarding the possible changes at the end of this year. We need the discipline of trust in God for all that we really need. The widow of Zarephath in Elijah's time came to the end of her resources. I Kings 17:12: "And she said, As the Lord liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die." Elijah told her what to do; she obeyed; and God miraculously provided for her food for at least the duration of the famine.

David wrote (Psalm 37:25): "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." We sing "Great is Thy faithfulness" from Lamentations 3:23, and Jeremiah could write this even while mourning the calamities of Judah and Israel. We know it is true, and what David wrote is true. Yet in the Gospel age there have been hardships, hunger, and even martyrdom for God's people. But this does not mean God has forsaken those who go through trials. Read Psalm and realize the truth of the physical protection under the Old Covenant, but the more important

spiritual protection under the New. The writer (Moses?) desperately needed a refuge, a fortress, and protection from his enemies. We have the same assurance of protection from the adversary of our souls.

Paul lists his troubles in II Corinthians 11, his shipwreck, his beatings, his perils of all kinds, his hunger and thirst. It almost appears that God had forsaken him. We know He did not. Paul testifies in 12:10: "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." We see that God was right there with him, giving him strength to bear what He allowed Paul to suffer.

How is it with us? Can we see God's provision for us even in every trial or trouble? Can we realize and confess our total dependence on God's delivering grace? He assures us that His grace is sufficient.

We haven't touched on our dependence on one another. Paul admonishes us to bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. We also have children and a whole new generation, in a sense, depending on us older ones. When Paul says that the parents should lay up for the children, (in II Cor. 12:14) I'm sure he means more than natural provision. There is a heritage of faith that we can leave even though our children will still have the responsibility to choose.

Above all, trust in the Lord. Jesus has promised to never forsake us or leave us. May we sense the reality of our need for God and say with the Psalmist: "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?" (Psm. 42:1,2)

May we look to our Heavenly Father as hungry children depend on their parents to supply their daily food. He knows better than we do what we really need, and He knows how to supply all our needs. --L.C.

A CROWN FOR YOUR HUSBAND

"A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband,
but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness to his bones."

Proverbs 12:4

What comes to your mind when you think of a crown? Something hiding in the closet collecting dust? Hardly. We immediately picture something glorious; something very beautiful to behold. Almost unconsciously we envision the honor, dignity, and power which a crown represents. Try to imagine a crown of pure gold, inset with thousands of diamonds and hundreds of pearls. Wouldn't it be beautiful? Now think of a woman who is "made of pure gold." Her heart is set on following Jesus. Her motives, actions, and words are pure before God. She has hundreds of little attributes that make her shine. Doesn't this sound just as beautiful? Doesn't it sound like an outstanding woman? Does it sound at all like your husband's wife?

Now what comes to mind as you consider rottenness in the bones? My mind immediately went to my husband's uncle who died of bone cancer. The cancer started in his leg bones and was slowly "eating" away at them. No one could actually see it happening, but watching the symptoms, no one doubted that it was true. One day the bones became too weak to support the rest of his body's weight and the bones broke. With the condition his body was in, the bones could no longer repair themselves as a normal, healthy body does. What a likeness for the husband-wife relationship! I believe if we could see behind many scenes, we would see this happening over and over again. There are many, many wives who are "eating away" at their husbands, and finally one day the husband is so weak that he "breaks." The damage that is done is irreparable outside of Jesus Christ.

Are you a shining crown to your husband, or are you a rottenness that is slowly eating away at his very life? The Bible doesn't give any middle ground. Now we are going to dig into a few of the ways that you are either honoring your husband or destroying him.

The Heart of Her Husband Doth Safely Trust in Her

We all want to be trusted, especially by those closest to us, and just now we will focus on our husbands. Trust is at the very heart of a marriage relationship. Our love and affections are built on how much we trust each other. A wise person does not naively bestow his trust on just anyone. If your husband does not trust you, don't blame him; it is most likely your own fault. You have, in one way or another, given him reasons to believe that you are not trustworthy.

As I was meditating on this, the Lord gave me a very profound, yet simple thought: "How much your husband trusts you is a good gauge of how submissive you are to him." If your husband can count on you, and knows that you will submit to him "as unto the Lord," I guarantee that *"his heart will safely trust in you."*

Now, what is submission? A close look at it would say that it is an attitude, not simply an action. Submission knows what her husband's heart is and uses it as her guide. Submission will never try to see what she can get away with or how far she can stretch the limits. That is not submission at all; that is rebellion! Submission also allows her husband to make mistakes and never comes back with, "Didn't I tell you?" Submission at times may need to say, "I don't understand, and I think we ought to do this instead, but if you choose to go ahead anyhow, I will be cheerfully by your side helping you."

I recently observed a woman ask her husband his opinion on something. His opinion did not correspond with the way she was leaning, so she fussed and stewed about it until she finally made up her mind which way to do this certain thing. This

whole scene didn't last more than ten minutes; it was not an important issue, but it told me something about their relationship and who has the last word in their home.

Your husband knows whether or not you are submissive. He knows how highly you value his opinions and whether or not you will follow his heart's wishes if it conflicts with yours. Stop and consider for a few moments. Are there certain areas that your husband cannot trust you in? Do you give him good reason to worry about what you might do? Is his heart at rest while you are out shopping, equipped with the checkbook and credit cards? Does he wish you wouldn't spend so much of his hard-earned money? Does his heart safely trust you while he is off at work and you are home with the children? Are you training them in the way his heart desires, or does he groan to think of all the "catch-up" work he'll have to do again tonight? Can your husband safely trust you with confidential information, or is he reserved for fear that the whole town will know it by the end of the week?

There are many little areas that either build up or tear down his trust in you. You are daily showing, in the little things, whether or not you are working to please your husband. Things like the food you fix for him, the way you treat his personal items, the remarks you make to your children, if you say his name with a groan and a sigh, or the looks you give him that he never sees.

Work hard to please your husband; the results are sweet: *"His heart will safely trust in you!"*

And Let the Wife See That She Reverence Her Husband

Let me repeat that verse again as the Amplified Version gives it: *"And let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband [that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, loves and admires him exceedingly.]"* (Eph 5:33) And also I Peter 3:2: *"... your reverence [for your*

husband; you are to feel for him all that reverence includes: to respect, defer, to revere him--to honor esteem, prize, and in the human sense, adore him, that is to admire, praise, be devoted to, deeply love, and enjoy your husband.]"

Wow! What a big order! But what husband wouldn't shine if he were treated that way?

How do you treat something that you esteem, prize, honor, prefer, etc.? Watch your children; they will show you. If they "prize" their bicycle, will they leave it lying in the middle of the driveway? If they "prefer" that piece of candy, will you find it smashed on the floor somewhere? Just how do you take care of your husband? Some women can do the right things, but since it was not done in a heart of love, their time and efforts were wasted. You are constantly sending signals to him about how highly you esteem him. If in your heart you do not highly regard your husband, he will know it and so will your children. If you treat him as though he is a detriment to the family's spiritual progress, you are tearing down any desire he has to make any progress at all.

Did you notice that there are no "if's" included in the above verses? You are not supposed to wait until your husband becomes Mr. Perfect to reverence him; you are to do your best to praise, love, and admire him as he is. That is what God requires and expects out of you.

Now let us think a bit about the opposite of reverence. She is known in the Bible as a contentious woman. The meaning of contentious is this: "an often perverse and wearisome tendency to quarrels and disputes." Synonyms to the noun form, *contention*, are rivalry, competition, and discord.

How does a woman like this affect her home? Many men hate all the fighting and allow their wife to "grab the reins" and have her own way. Then the wife wonders why she has a weak-kneed husband who stays aloof from the affairs of the

home. She lays the blame on him and little suspects that she herself is at the very root of the problem.

Here is what God's Word says about a contentious woman: (from the Amplified Bible) ". . . *The contentions of a wife are like a continual dripping [of water through a chink in the roof.]*" (Pro. 19:13b) "*It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop [on the flat oriental roof, exposed to all kinds of weather] than in a house shared with a nagging, quarrelsome and faultfinding woman.*" (Proverbs 21:9) "*Whoever attempts to restrain [a contentious woman] might as well try to stop the wind--his right hand encounters oil [and she slips through his fingers.]*" (Proverbs 27:16)

Have you ever observed a contentious woman? Do you know that she can dress in modest clothes like a Christian? She can go to church, put on a smile and act like a wonderful person. A peek behind this nice mask would show you quite another person.

Sit back and observe yourself for awhile. How do you act and react to those around you--your husband in particular? If you were another person, would you like to live with some one just like you? (Maybe you can sympathize a bit with your husband!) By God's grace, the testimony of your life can be that of Proverbs 31:12: "*She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.*" (to be continued)

By Kary Martin.

Selected by Thomas and Sharon Miller.

Adapted from *The Heartbeat of The Remnant*

BIRTH

ROYER - A daughter, Ashlynn Joy, born May 9 to Merrill and Martha Royer of Goshen, Indiana.

GOD'S WORD SPOKEN

In the beginning, God proved the power and truth of His Word by creating the heavens and the earth and all their glory. To know that all this came to pass by the power of His Word (in saying "Let there be," and it came to pass), moves us to believe that His Word is irrefutable.

After the planted earth came into being, God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." (Gen. 1:24-26)

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (Gen. 2:7)

Man is the crowning excellence of His creation. To make man involved not only God's words but also His hands and the "breath of life that is in the Father." This breath of life is more than the air we breathe; it is the touch of God that made man a living soul. In this, God has given man a mind that is capable of reasoning, understanding, comprehending, and communicating. God has charged man accountable in this intelligence to know and obey Him by the power of His Word and Spirit.

God has done more than spoken to us in mysteries. His Word became flesh and blood and dwelt among us. He has revealed to man in picture language His love and will for man. The words He spoke were from heaven, for Jesus said these

revealing words: "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak." (John 12:46-50)

The grandest concept of the human mind and heart is to know God in a saving knowledge. This can only be attained by loving the words He spoke. It is more than intellectual knowledge for the sake of knowing. It is what moves us to the joy of our salvation. It is a daily stimulation to love and good works. It is what anchors our souls to eternal truth.

Natural food will sustain life if we have an appetite or not. The Word of God can only sustain us if we have a love for it. If we love it, it will be a daily feast to the soul and will sustain us in His love and good works.

Jer. 15:16: "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts."

Psalms 56:4: "In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me."

Psalms 119:11,16,105: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

"I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word."

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

The proof and power of God's Word is always manifested in the lives of those that love His Word and by obedience to it.

I John 2:5: "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him."

Kenneth Martin, Nappanee, Indiana

Our tongue is, after all, but the tool of our inner being. If that be good, our speech will be kindly. If that be bitter, our speech will be harsh and cutting. A new heart is the only remedy for a bad tongue. Consider well, whoever you may be that has this awful habit of fault-finding and criticism, be sure you will sooner or later reap just what you are sowing.

--John Strickler collection

FOR YOUTH

Power of the Word of God

(In the following article, lest it become too lengthy, we will mostly just give the Scripture reference along with the thought. We urge you to look up these references and see if it teaches you the same.)

The seed is the Word of God. (Luke 8:11) In Jeremiah 23:29 we read, "Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" If we are to obtain fullness of power in life, we must feed on God's Word for steady continuance and increase of power and usefulness.

The filling of the Holy Spirit and meditation on God's Word go together. Spiritual laziness just lets the minister tell us. You must daily study God's Word personally.

Faith cannot be gotten by merely praying or an effort of the will. (Romans 10:17) Faith comes by knowing God's Word. When you tell a person to believe, give him something to believe in --something for his faith to rest on like Isaiah 55:6 or I Peter 2:24. Real faith must have a guarantee. Before you can truly believe you are to receive what you ask for, you must have

a definite promise from God's Word or a definite leading of the Holy Spirit to rest your faith on. For example, in seeking God's presence, ask yourself if there is any promise in His Word regarding what you desire; find the promise if there is; then, present the promise to God: "I have been called and saved and here in your Word is your promise. Please fill me now." (I John 5:14-15; Acts 2:39; Mark 11:24) To dispel doubt, read John 20:31. Is your will surrendered? Then read the Word of God thoughtfully and honestly, seeking God's will.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." (Rom. 10:17) The Word of God is the means through which the Holy Spirit does His work. (Eph 6:17) Also it is the seed the Spirit sows and quickens. (Luke 8:11 and I Peter 1:23) If you therefore want the Holy Spirit to do His part in your heart, you must study the Word. The Word of God is the sword the Spirit uses to teach you. You need both. God's Word is the instrument through which the Spirit works. Personal power of the Spirit acts through the Word.

God's Word has power to cleanse the impurity of the heart as well as the outward life. It needs to be washed often by God's Word. (Psalm 119:9)

The men who have greatly affected the spiritual history of the world and men whom others can depend upon, in many cases, knew little besides the Bible. (II Tim. 3:16)

Read and believe Romans 8:28; then nothing will disturb your peace. You are not left to yourself, for the Holy Spirit is here to help us, even in our prayers. (Rom. 8:26) Romans 8 gives you the true picture of the true Christian life working obedience and victory in you. The flesh is still in you, but you are not in the flesh living after the flesh but after the Spirit, thereby, not fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. (Rom. 8:9)

Keeping God's commandments and surrendering your will to His will brings joy overflowing. Jeremiah 15:16 says, "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto

me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart. . ." Also see John 15:10,11 and Romans 15:4. R. A. Torrey said, "Many Christians have just enough religion to make them miserable. They can no longer enjoy the world, and they have not yet entered into the joy of the Lord."

The Word of God has power to protect you from error and sin. (Acts 20:20-32) If you stay close to God's Word, feeding on it daily, you have a great protection and will be better able to discern error from truth. (II Tim. 3:13-15; Psalm 119:11; Mat.4:4,7,10) Study the Word. (Col. 3:16) Read Psalm 112:3 and Ephesians 5:18-22.

James and Betty Beery
Williamsport, Indiana

ERASERS

Erasers are the nicest things!
Of that there is no doubt.
We write wrong words, A few quick swipes
And big mistakes fade out.
And you will find erasers
Of a very different kind,
Extremely helpful, if you will try
To bear these facts in mind:
When you bump someone in a crowd,
And almost knock her down,
A soft "I'm sorry!" may bring smiles
And rub out that old frown.
Apologies, invariably,
Obliterate mistakes;
And three small words, "I love you!"
Can erase the worst heartaches.

Author unknown
From the *Exchange Messenger*

THE PILGRIM
CHILDREN'S PAGE
The Lizard's Tail

15

Penny skipped cheerfully out into the Mississippi sunshine. Nimble, she climbed the wood pile and began to throw pieces of firewood onto the walk. "Oooh!" she shuddered. "There was a lizard on that piece of wood! Now he's on the walk. He is moving slowly. It must be too cold for him since he's a cold-blooded creature."

Suddenly an idea came to her. "I'm going to see if I can step on his tail. I want to see him lose his tail in fright." Penny had been told that lizards could let go of their tails and crawl off, leaving their tails in the clutches of their enemies. She quickly slid down the wood pile and jumped onto the walk. Getting close to the slowly-moving lizard, she stomped her right foot squarely onto its tail. It worked! The lizard's body kept moving away from her foot, but its tail was still under her shoe.

Watching the poor lizard crawl away without its tail, she was suddenly sorry she had been so mean. She knew God had created this creature with the ability to lose its tail as a way of protection. She also knew it would grow another tail eventually. Meanwhile, though, it would be without this means of protection. Besides, it probably hurt to lose a tail! Tears came to her eyes, and she ran into the house to find Mother. "I'm sorry, Mother," she sobbed. "I--I hurt the lizard. I stepped on his tail on purpose, and he crawled away without it. Oh! I'm sorry."

Mother put her arm around her girl's shoulders. "I'm glad you are sorry for being unkind to one of God's creatures, Penny. God gave us a natural curiosity. Don't cry. I'm sure the lizard will survive, and you've learned a lesson. Now, can you bring in the wood you threw down so I can get the fire going and warm the house?"

Once again, Penny skipped into the sunshine. There was no sign of the lizard except for its tail still wiggling on the walk. She soberly kicked the tail into the grass and loaded her arms with wood.

Linda Frick
Gettysburg, Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

Beloved (fellow pilgrims), think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. --I Peter 4:12,13

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from
fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

ASK YE WHAT GREAT THING I KNOW

Ask ye what great thing I know
That delights and stirs me so.
What the high reward I win?
Whose the name I glory in?
Jesus Christ the crucified.

Who hath loosed the prison door
By His mighty word and power?
Who to life hath wakened me,
Ever there with Him to be?
Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Who hath given strength to me,
By His life and victory?
Reconciled me unto God,
Comforts by His staff and rod?
Jesus Christ, exalted Lord.

This is that great thing I know;
This delights and stirs me so;
Faith in Him who died to save,
Him, who triumphed o'er the grave,
Jesus, God of majesty.

From Zion's Harp

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HOEING WEEDS

Such a simple, homey term! And why would we use it for a title of an article in a Christian publication? Of course, like so many of the parables and similes in the Bible, it represents something more vital. Hoeing weeds is vital to the sweet corn patch, but more important is the striking out of sins and bad habits in our lives.

Weeds are hardy. Consider that for centuries the created plants have competed for space, moisture, and nutrients. The fittest survive to produce seed for the next generation. Besides this, God decreed that thorns and thistles would be a curse to the ground Adam would till in the sweat of his face to eat his bread. Weeds are hardy by God's decree as well as by natural selection.

Weeds are often deep-rooted. The tap root goes down for moisture which makes them bitter competitors with the plants we raise for our "bread." Weeds can often survive where desirable plants fail.

Weeds choke out the good seed. In Jesus' parable about the sowing of the good seed, the Word of God, one of the four conditions He described was the seed among thorns. The thorns were able to choke out the good sprouts.

Most weeds are not useful: some are worthless for feed; some are actually poisonous; some have thorns or burrs that can harm an animal or lodge in its eyes or ears.

Weeds spread easily. Some have a bit of fluff or are so tiny that the wind can scatter them. Some seeds are burrs carried by animals or humans to new locations. Some actually are thrown from the mother plant as the seed pods dry and pop open.

Tumbleweed seeds are spread as the whole plant dries up and is rolled across the land by the wind or piled against fences.

With all this, it would seem that garden plants would hardly have a chance to survive. However, the wise gardener knows how to cope with harmful weeds. He works the ground, destroying some tiny weed sprouts. When he plants good seed, he watches carefully for weeds to appear. Even the tiniest shoots are different from the vegetables. The gardener recognizes them and strikes them out while they are young and tender. He must be careful not to injure the plants he wants to save, as they also are tender.

The skilful gardener keeps his hoe handy and does not let the weeds get well started, for then they are hard to overcome with their deep roots and tough stems. Some weeds need to be completely removed from the garden, as they will sprout roots easily even after the hoe uproots them.

As we think of the characteristics of weeds, we can easily see the similarity to bad habits. Most of the descriptions of weeds apply as a figure to our sins. They become deep-rooted easily and quickly. Sins root readily into our carnal, pleasure-seeking natures. Sometimes, like when you pull a weed, the root breaks and remains to sprout out again. A root of bitterness can sprout anger, resentment, self-pity, and other vicious results if it is allowed to remain in the heart.

It is interesting to note that the corn or beans or wheat or even the good ground has no power to remove the weeds. That is a job that only the gardener can do. Is it true, then, that we need the power of God's Holy Spirit to root out the sins that so easily beset us?

Bad habits choke out good ones. For instance, if we have the habit of reading worthless stories or novels, the very fact that much time is used makes better reading come out short. This is in addition to the harm done. This particular habit has

the characteristic of poisonous weeds or weeds with burrs that harm us--get stuck in our eyes or ears (or memories)!

Bad habits spread easily. To state the positive side, so do good ones. And they are both hard to break. The extreme, ungodly styles of the world might come under the category of habits that spread. We all have probably noticed that a style or design which at first is repulsive and disgusting, after a while begins to look desirable when we see it often around us. A good style is also contagious. When we are with Christian people with convictions of modesty and practicality, there is strong influence. Keep this verse in mind: (I John 4:4) "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." In spite of all the various ways weeds of sin can spread, and the tremendous appeal sin has to the flesh, there is still victory in Jesus. "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (I Cor. 1:21)

We have been planted in a good place through the blood of Jesus washing us and giving us new life in Him. But the garden doesn't produce fruit at the planting. We need to grow and mature and bear fruit. To do this we still need the grace of God, the Master Gardener, to root out the undesirable plants and keep the good ones.

Considering gardening as a parable, we see our responsibility in several areas. **We are to be good ground** for the seed (the Word of God) to fall on. We must not let the weeds of bad habits occupy us.

We are also to be good plants. In I Corinthians 3, Paul says he planted, Apollos watered, and God gave the increase. Then he writes, ". . . Ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." Jesus said (Mat. 15:13) ". . . Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." The Psalmist compares our sons to plants: ". . . thy children like

olive plants. . ." (128:3) "That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth. . ." (144:12)

And then **we are to be good gardeners**. Hosea cries out (10:12): "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord. . ." "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Gal. 6:7,8)

To all you good gardeners: let us learn the lessons God has for us in the weeds, the good seed, the sowing and reaping. And let us prepare our hearts to continually receive good seed, and water and nutrients to make it grow. And keep the hoe handy! ---L.C.

A CROWN FOR YOUR HUSBAND (continued)

She Girdeth Herself With Strength

Strength? I thought that is a masculine trait! Does my husband care if I'm strong or not? Well, maybe not in muscle power, but I'm sure he wants an emotionally and spiritually strong wife. A weak wife, in that aspect, is a drain to any man!

Here are a few characteristics of an emotionally weak person: First and foremost, she is a very self-centered person. This is the root of most of her other problems. Her life rotates around "me and my feelings." She is very moody, easily discouraged, and her life shows a lack of consistent joy. When a challenge comes her way, she is full of fear and doubt, rather than being willing to take the challenge and allow it to mature her. It is very hard for an emotionally weak person to accept criticism or advice that goes against her will without becoming personally wounded.

An emotionally weak mother is tearing down her home faster than dad can build it. He's trying to bring the children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, but mom's tender feelings are working hard against him. After a spanking, the child knows mom will have a pity party with him. If dad won't let him have his way, he knows mom will. (It won't take long until he's smart enough to ask her first!) A weak mother tries to sweet-talk or manipulate her children into obeying, rather than applying the "rod of correction."

Are you an emotionally weak person? The next prediction is that you are also spiritually weak. It is nearly impossible to be emotionally weak and spiritually strong. There is a vast difference between a spiritual baby and a spiritual weakling. A baby simply has not had time to mature yet; a weakling is refusing the maturing process. They find it much easier to be spoon-fed than to go find their own food. They love the attention of sitting down with the preacher and mulling over their problems. They are continually struggling with the same basic problems, although they come with a new face on now and then.

Have you ever considered what Proverbs 31:18 could mean when it says, "Her candle goeth not out by night"? Here's how the Amplified Version says it: "Her lamp goes not out, but it burns on continually through the night [of trouble, privation, or sorrow, warning away fear, doubt, and distrust.]" Doesn't that sound like a strong woman? Someone you can count on "through thick and thin."

A weak person reminds me of the story of Peter in Matthew 14. Yes, you have bravely gotten out of the boat and started toward Jesus. Or in today's terms, you may have left behind everything that was once dear to you to follow Christ's call to "Come." It was a very brave, strong and courageous thing to do. But as time goes on, somehow, just like Peter, you have taken your eyes off Christ. You are now focusing on the waves

and turbulence around you. You may not even realize it, but you are sinking, just as surely as Peter was. You need to, as Peter did, get your eyes back on Jesus and cry out, "Lord, save me!" You need to recognize this "weakness" as sin. There is a master deceiver behind all these "waves," and his only intent is to get your eyes off Jesus, for then surely one day you will become his prey.

Who Serves Whom?

"But for Adam there was not found an help meet for him."
(Genesis 2:20)

After Adam realized he was not complete alone, God made Eve. When God made the woman, He made her for the man. She was to be a helper who was suitable and complementary (meet) for him. This was God's original plan and He hasn't altered it in the several thousand years that have elapsed since then.

Dear sister, this is your first and highest calling--to be a complementary counterpart for your husband. Yes, I know God also wants you to bear children and guide the house. (I Tim. 5:14) But how can you do these effectively if the very foundation is not solid? If your husband's personal life is not bettered because of you, one of the basic stones in the foundation of your home is missing. Notice I said "personal life;" I mean something more than washing clothes and cooking food. I am referring to his own personal character qualities.

There are women around, and you may be one of them, who seem to have God's idea all turned around. They seem to think their husband is there to make life easier for them. They treat him like he is their servant boy. There are things which they are perfectly capable of doing themselves, but they whine and beg for their husband's help. He was not made to serve you; you were made for him. One of the qualities of the Proverbs 31 woman is that "she worketh willingly with her hands." It doesn't say anything about whether she enjoys the job or not, or

whether the job is easy or difficult, or whether she is well rested or tired. It simply says that she works willingly.

There are things that we need our husband's help with, and these things can be presented to him in a sweet and submissive manner. Pick your time and place carefully. Unless the need is urgent, wait for a time when he is not pressured with other things (his job, church work, etc.) and also wait for a time when he is not overly tired or hungry. Eccl. 8:5 says, "A wise man's mind will know both when and what to do." (Amplified Version) Women, be wise.

Do you wish your husband would help out more around the house? Consider several things. First of all, who feels like helping a whining, nagging wife? Of course she does it in more of a grown-up way than a 4-year-old does, but it is just as wearisome and disgusting. If your husband's wife does this, by the grace of God, make her stop it right away. Your husband is to be the leader of the home, and it is not your place to manipulate him into doing things. If he chooses not to help you at all, you need to silently, sweetly submit to this and get along the best you can.

The second thing to consider is that your husband probably has just as much or more pressure at his job than you do around the house. Perhaps it would open your eyes if you'd spend a day with him at work. Then you could see first hand how hard he works and how much stress he is under. When he gets home, he wants to relax and enjoy the family--not simply change bosses for a few hours.

The third thing I have for you to consider: figure out how your husband shows you love. Just because so-and-so's husband washes dishes for her at least once a week does not make their marriage any better or worse than yours. There's a good chance your husband does other things for you and you just aren't appreciating them. Perhaps he gives you back rubs frequently. Maybe he puts the children to bed every night and

lets you enjoy a bit of time to yourself. There are hundreds of possibilities. Stop wishing he'd do certain things for you and start appreciating the things he is already doing.

If you were not raised in a Christian setting, what I have written may be hard for you to digest. The world is so geared to trying to "equalize" everything; they know nothing about the joys of servanthood. Women selfishly pursue what they think will make them the happiest. In the process, men are being torn down and women are still lacking the satisfaction they long for. God did not make women inferior to men, just different from them. He wants to give them a special place of protection--under man. We find peace, joy, fulfillment and satisfaction only as we live out our God-ordained roles. If you choose to take the world's path, you will doubtlessly live with their results: fighting, bickering, broken marriages, wrecked homes, and juvenile delinquents. (to be continued)

By Kary Martin

Selected by Thomas and Sharon Miller

Adapted from *The Heartbeat of the Remnant*

BAPTISMS--Eastern Congregation

Justin, Rosanna, and Heidi Bowser--June 6, Harrison, Arkansas

Melanie and Sharen Royer--June 13, Wakarusa, Indiana

May these dear young people faithfully serve in the Kingdom of Christ.

MARRIAGE

STALTER-ROYER Simon Stalter and Abigail Royer were married May 15. Their new address:

22472 C.R. 36

Goshen, IN 46526 (219) 537-1799

GOD'S GOODNESS

All good relationships are built by virtues that attract and bless its subjects. When relationships break down, it is usually because we lose the virtues that were the attraction either by slothfulness or unfaithfulness in one or the other.

Diligence that builds and maintains good relationship is often more than man wants to pay. This creates a society that is poor, lonely, and wanting. A blessed relationship with God and one another can only be built and maintained through diligence in reciprocating God's love and goodness. "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." (Rom. 11:22)

God's omnipotence has revealed His goodness, so that man is without excuse to not respond in worship, adoration, and praise in remembrance of Him. Relating to God's goodness is a salvation requirement: "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" (Rom. 2:4)

Satan's attack on God's goodness in the very beginning was the charge that God's goodness was only a trap to keep man in ignorance and bondage, and his scheme worked. Satan was able to interfere in God's goodness, but he was unable to destroy it. God's goodness still prevailed in that man and Satan were confronted by Him--giving Satan and his subjects the death penalty and that man would assist Him in it: the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head.

The goodness of God is prevailing. God sent His only begotten Son, born of a woman, into the world teaching man to be reconciled to God by the cross of Christ--by a new and living way. He established an eternal kingdom and sealed it with His own blood which the gates of hell cannot destroy.

The response to God's goodness by those that knew Him in all ages proved His goodness in life and in worship. In these last days the kingdom Christ has established has more to claim, and is more accountable to reveal and proclaim God's goodness than any other people.

The testimony of reciprocating in God's goodness is in bearing fruit that would honor His goodness. This is the hallmark of His united kingdom on earth. He has assured those that trust and communicate with Him in His goodness that receiving the blessing is proof of a meaningful relationship with Him and one another. "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" (Psalm 107:15)

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." (Psalm 23:6) What a future for the faithful!

Kenneth Martin,
Nappanee, Indiana

BIRTHS

HARRIS - A daughter, Johanna Elisabeth, born June 10 to Michael and Wanda Harris of Goshen, Indiana

BEERY - A daughter, Jessica Brooke, born June 22 to John and Angie Beery of Williamsport, Indiana

COVER - A daughter, Cheyenne Chase-Morgan, born October 3, 1997, and received by adoption June 27, 1999, to Joe and Sherry Cover of Tuolumne, California

FOR YOUTH
There Is No Fear in Love

Recently I took a small young friend to do a little job he needed to do. A sudden noise and movement frightened him terribly. I could not get him to feel secure enough to do his job, even though I was right there and tried to assure him that all was well. His mother came and took her terrified child, held him close, and bent down so he could cling tightly to her neck while he did his little job. He knew his mother very well, and she had protected him many times in his short life. His trust in her was evident.

I John 4:18a: "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: . . ." More and more people of the world are becoming frightened by the Y2K predictions. Instead of cultivating a love for the Lord and trusting Him, they become obsessed with self-preservation. Much time and money is being spent to hoard food, water, and fuel in great quantities. Much study goes into learning how to properly store the various essentials, and many even delve deeply into the knowledge sources to learn what foods to store to make sure they and their families get proper nutrition during the predicted famine.

Are we getting caught up in the world's fears and frenzies? Are we trusting in our own abilities for self-preservation? Or are we cultivating that perfect love for God that seeks and studies to know Him intimately; to know His Word and Will; to hoard up Spiritual food in our hearts for the preservation of our souls in a time of spiritual famine?

We need to cultivate contentment, too. I Timothy 6:6: "But godliness with contentment is great gain." We can be content and happy with much less than we are used to having. It is so easy for us to get a plentiful supply of food, and we enjoy the abundance and variety in our diets. But if we

cultivate contentment and find our pleasure in God's Word and in communing with Him, we can be healthy and content on a diet of cornmeal mush, if need be. Only one pair of shoes, half-worn-out will be sufficient, and two or three changes of clothes. There are written testimonies from the Great Depression telling that, as children during that time, people didn't even realize they were poor even though their shoe soles were cardboard held on their feet with strings and their diet consisted of potatoes, potatoes, and potatoes. These people remember their childhood as being happy times of family togetherness, playing simple games at home together in the evenings. Contrast that with the current trend of madly racing here and there, with each family member going different directions nightly in search of fun.

"Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord." (Jeremiah 9:23,24) When hard times come upon us, it will become very evident whether we are glorying in knowing (and trusting) the Lord, or in our own abilities to provide for and preserve our earthly life: whether we delight in what we have to eat and wear, or in spiritual food and fellowship. Can we--do we--love the Lord enough to sweetly rest in Him and not worry about the Y2K predictions?

Linda Frick, Gettysburg, Ohio

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OUR REFUGE AND OUR STRENGTH

The Lord is our Refuge and our Strength;
We go to Him for rest;
We go to Him when a storm doth come;
In the Lord we are blest.

The Lord is our Refuge and our Strength;
He is strong; we are weak;
Often we fail; God is our helper;
For His shelter we seek.

The Lord is our Refuge and our Strength;
In Him we put our trust;
The Lord will help us accomplish much,
Not desire fleshly lust.

The Lord is our Refuge and our Strength;
We cast on Him our care;
When our burdens seem to push us down,
We go to Him in prayer.

The Lord is our Refuge and our Strength;
The storms of life do come;
But someday we will be free from sin,
When the Lord calls us home.

Jennifer Brandt
Union City, Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

Pilgrims, we are called to glory, but not the glory of this world, not the praise of men. We have the approval of God through His grace and mercy. That glory will never fade. --L.C.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Katy Be Kind

Katy, Sarah Beth, and Lois were very good friends. At church, at school, indeed at every opportunity, it was Katy, Sarah Beth, and Lois . . . until now. A new family had begun attending their church, and they had a daughter their age. Her name was Bertha. Bertha! What a weird name! And she had red hair and freckles, and acted really tense, and chewed on her braids, and wanted to play with them, and they didn't want her to!

One Sunday afternoon, Katy edged into the kitchen where Mama was feeding baby Joseph, and began nervously moving dishes about, tickling Joseph, almost leaving, and then coming back, until Mama knew there was something bothering her. Finally Katy slipped up beside her and shyly said, "Mama?"

"Yes, Katy?"

"Did you . . . I mean . . . well . . . is it true that you and Lois's mama used to not play with Sarah Beth's mama when you were little?"

Mama's mouth fell open as she stared at her daughter. "Wh-Where did you hear that?"

Katy hung her head. "Well . . . Uh . . . Sarah Beth's mama heard Lois tell us to hide from Bertha while she wasn't looking, and . . ."

"Oh, Katy!" Mama looked very grieved. "Does this happen a lot?"

"I'm sorry, Mama, but Sarah Beth's mama told us when she was little, you and Lois's mama wouldn't play with her because she was from another district, and wasn't there often. She said it really hurt, and it wasn't until she was a lot older that she really forgave you, even though you had become good friends.

She said she was ashamed of that because it was as bad as what you'd done.

"She said Lois's mama apologized to her for it a few years ago. It bothered her all that time! She said that she never imagined what they were doing was going to matter when they grew up, but it really did, and if we're unkind to Bertha now, we will suffer for it, as well as her, and it isn't Bertha's fault! . . . Mama, did you apologize?"

"Well, I guess I never really apologized. I just tried to show her that I was sorry by being a friend. Maybe we both need to do some apologizing? Or have you already?"

"Yes."

"It's a shame that Mama needs to learn from her daughter how long an unkindness can hurt, but it's a good lesson. Always be kind, Katy! I think I'll call Sarah Beth's mama right now and apologize."

Martha Wagner
Gettysburg, Ohio

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

MY BROTHER

Two words there are that thrill my heart
And cause my sluggish blood to start,
When I with my dear brethren meet
And in a Christian manner greet,
With high regard salute each other,
And then sincerely say, "My brother."

Then while with his companion shake,
Inquiry to her health I make;
Though audibly I may not say
Those words, I keep in mind alway:
Each female member I may claim
"A sister" in the Savior's name.

Oh what a pleasant place were this,
A brief foretaste of future bliss,
If in this whole wide world around
Goodwill and love alone were found,
And men when greeting one another
Should smile and kindly say, "My brother."

--Guy Hootman

From the March, 1966 *Pilgrim*

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JESUS' LOVE IN HIS DISCIPLES

The way of the world is to return evil for evil: fight back; bite back; make them pay. God's way is so much higher as to be exactly opposite to this. Jesus said in Luke 6:27,28, "But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." If this is the way the disciples of Jesus are to treat enemies, how much more should we love our friends--our dear brethren and sisters in Christ.

One of the most challenging duties of the Christian life is to cultivate true brotherhood--loving human relationships. To "get along with others" is only possible with the help of God--the application of these very principles which Jesus taught. What makes it difficult is that these principles are directly contrary to our human natures.

When we observe relationships that are harmonious and in God's order, it looks so easy. Some seem to have mastered the art of fitting in with others. But be assured, if this is truly happening, that person is working at it; it does not come automatically.

In our relationships to others--even in our families--we simply must overlook most of the faults we see. We freely confess that we all have faults. But the faults of others are so much more obvious. We see no reason--no excuse. But for our own mistakes, we understand the situation and make excuse: "I couldn't help it." "I was just too busy." "They will just have to understand."

The Bible principles work if we only put them to use. Philippians 2:3 says, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better

than themselves." But this is contrary to human nature. I see others making their mistakes, and I don't see their excuses like I see my own. Because of this, or maybe just because I am a man, it is hard to esteem others better than myself. I can see how good it would make them feel if they realized that I thought more highly of them than myself. I can see this is a good rule. *Help me, Lord. I am so self-centered.*

We read in Romans that we are to please our neighbor for his good to edification. I know this means to be a builder and help our friends and encourage them. Paul writes here that Jesus didn't please Himself but that reproaches fell on Him. I would like to please my neighbors and friends, and I try to, but so many times I have plans of my own that I think I can't change. And I don't like reproach. I don't like to be blamed even for my own blunders, not to mention being blamed for someone else's mistakes. *Help me, Lord, to be more like Jesus when He suffered for my sins.*

We read in God's Word that we are to bear one another's burdens. My friends have helped me and born my burdens. I appreciate this and know that I need the help and prayers of my brethren and sisters. But it seems that sometimes my own burdens weigh me down, and I fail to see the burdens my loved ones are bearing or even be thoughtful enough to ask them and to give a hand to those laboring under heavy loads. *Lord, help me to see the needs of my dear ones.* I am so glad that Jesus invited us to take His yoke upon us and to learn of Him and find rest. I'm glad He invited us to cast our burdens on Him and that He would sustain us. *Thank You, Lord Jesus.*

I would like to write something here that would help us love one another more. But I know that love can come only from God. And I know how dull these written pages can be and how much more important it is to love than to just write about it. I think all of us down here would like to give a good testimony to those looking on, to show that we are glad to know our Savior.

But so often we forget that the way to show that we are His disciples is to love one another as He has loved us. *Lord, help us to love each other more.*

I search my mind and experience to come up with good examples of people really harmonizing and relating well to one another. I know there are many. But I just have to confess that the way Jesus came and loved us and lived among us is the only perfect example. I want to study His life and tell others of the way He brought us together at the cross of Calvary. *Lord Jesus, I want to go there often and see and feel the blood that was shed for me.*

I have been splitting wood. I drive a wedge into the difficult chunks, and it pries them in two. I see Satan driving his wedges and separating brethren and churches. Some have said this dividing is like a divorce. If we see what Christian love really means, it can be even worse. David and Jonathan possessed a love "passing the love of women." *Lord, help us to have this love for one another in the church.*

We read about Jesus pronouncing blessing on the peacemakers. *Lord, I would like to be one.* Jesus told us to love our enemies. I don't want to have enemies, and if I have them I want to love them as Jesus told us to. But often I don't return love for those who might insult me even without intending to. This hurts my feelings and wounds my pride. But surely if I am to love my enemies, I should love still more these well-meaning friends--and even those who might not mean well but certainly could not be called enemies.

Lord, help me not to blunder so much. Lord, I would like to be more effective in Your service. I would like to write words that would really make a difference in the lives of our young people and inspire all of us to love each other more. But I know that only the Holy Spirit of God can inspire and change hearts. Thank You, Lord, for understanding friends, for a dear wife and dear children and grandchildren. Thank You for allowing

me to be born into a Christian family and then to be born again into the blessed family of God. Thank You, Jesus, for dying for me. Enable me, Lord, to live for Thee. And give us Thy peace. --L.C.

A CROWN FOR YOUR HUSBAND (continued)

The Only Hope of Winning an Unbelieving Husband

If you are the wife of an unbeliever, I Peter 3 was written for you. Read it carefully. According to this chapter, God wants to use you to reach your husband. Your life needs to represent the power of the living Christ. Your husband needs to feel respect from you; he needs to see that you are sweetly submitting to him. He needs to sense that you are teaching the children to respect and obey him. As he observes your godly life, this will speak volumes to him about Jesus. There may be times you absolutely must go against your husband's wishes, simply because you need to obey your higher authority, which is God. This can be done in a submissive spirit and not in a rebellious, "I-know-better-than-you" attitude. Never use obeying God as a religious cover-up for things for which you just do not feel like obeying your husband in.

If you have your own ideas about how to change your husband, you may as well forget them. They won't work; they will only make him bitter. Only God's methods can bring about a genuine change in him. There are two things you can do for him. Only two: 1. Give him a sweet and godly (God-like) wife. 2. Pray and fast for him. Here is the source of all power. And remember this one thing: God has higher aspirations for your husband than you do.

If your husband is a believer, but a very weak one, these things are for you, too. These are the only ways of

strengthening your husband. No amount of pleading or condemning will change him. At best, they could bring about a reform for a while, but unless God works the changes in his heart, they are bound to fail.

A Few Closing Thoughts

Although this article is far from being all-inclusive, I trust it has stimulated your thinking enough to examine what kind of effect you are having on your husband. I encourage you to study the personality of the Proverbs 31 woman. If you find you are not measuring up, do not simply determine to do better. Don't make out a list of things and resolve to do them. If the mirror (the Bible) has shown that your face is dirty, determining to stay out of the mud is not good enough. You need to start by hating the mud and then allowing yourself to get a good wash job.

This chapter, Proverbs 31, is so wonderful in that it not only sets forth the ideal, but it gives us the secret of how to accomplish it! Today's business world hurriedly puts a patent on any good ideas so that no one else can copy them, but our gracious Heavenly Father discloses His secrets to all who search for them. The secret lies in verse 30: *"A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."* Why praised? Because she has been this virtuous woman. And how has she accomplished it? By fearing the Lord.

On the other hand, if you are not that crown to your husband, by default you are a rottenness to his bones. It only takes one rotten apple to eventually spoil the whole basketful. No, it won't happen in a day or a week, but it is a steady, sure process. You are working against God, your husband, and yourself, not to mention the effects it will have on your children. The Bible states this simply as blaspheming the word of God. (Titus 2:5)

If you want to be that virtuous woman, that woman who is a crown of honor to her husband, the whole matter lies in learning to know your Lord Jesus. Others may be able to do a fairly good job, but this virtuous woman "*excellest them all.*" (Proverbs 31:29)

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." (Ephesians 3:20) May He receive all the glory forever.

By Kary Martin

Selected by Thomas and Sharon Miller

Adapted from *The Heartbeat of the Remnant*

HYMN HISTORY

Christian hymns are as old as the Christian religion--as old as the New Testament. And, of course, the Psalms were sung centuries before Christ came. There were a number of centuries after Christ, however, when congregational singing was frowned upon, and for any but the clergy to sing was looked upon as heresy and was punishable by imprisonment. It was not until after Martin Luther broke from the Roman Catholic Church and championed the Reformation that congregational singing came into general practice.

During the early 1500's, Luther wrote thirty-seven hymns for his "Protestants" to sing. In the 17th century, England's infirm little literary genius, Isaac Watts, boldly set about to "Christianize" a selection of Psalms by paraphrasing them. He published his "modernized" Psalms in a book entitled *Psalms of David Imitated*, and English hymns as we know them today were born.

Of Isaac Watts's six hundred fifty hymns, perhaps no more than twenty survive in current use. Of Charles Wesley's six thousand titles, a safe estimate of surviving numbers might be

set at thirty. Of Fanny Crosby's nine thousand gospel hymns, some thirty-five promise to live through the ages. So it becomes obvious that our present hymnals comprise the best selections from scores of writers and tens of thousands of Christian songs.

The authors of the hymns we sing are of mixed denomination. "Lead, Kindly Light," "Faith of Our Fathers" and "Silent Night, Holy Night" were all from Catholic writers. A Baptist minister wrote "Christ Arose." A Presbyterian minister was the author of "Rise Up, O Men of God." "I Love to Tell the Story" is by an Anglican: "Jesus Lover of My Soul" by a Methodist. A Calvinist was the author of "Rock of Ages" and "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" was written by an independent.

The oldest hymn found in today's hymnbooks was translated from a poem in a book of philosophy, *The Instructor*, written about A.D. 200 by the Greek librarian, preacher, and teacher usually known as Clement of Alexandria. It is over seventeen and a half centuries old.

Shepherd of tender youth,
Guiding in love and truth,
Through devious ways;
Christ our triumphant King,
We come Thy name to sing;
Hither our children bring
To shout Thy praise.

Information from *A Hymn Is Born* by Clint Bonner
1959 Broadman Press. Used by Permission.

Adapted by Jean Martin

A Christian Martyr is one who: Chooses to suffer death rather than to deny Christ or His work. . . Sacrifices something very important to further the Kingdom of God. . . Endures great suffering for Christian Witness.

--Selected by Ken and Karen Johnson

A FATHER'S PRAYER

Oh Heavenly Father, walk with my feet,
My children to lead, their Saviour to meet.

Oh Heavenly Father, touch through my hand,
My children to guide to Thy Promised Land.

Oh Heavenly Father, see through my eyes,
My children's true needs, the worth of their lives.

Oh Heavenly Father, smile through my face,
My children to show Thy kindness and grace.

Oh Heavenly Father, rule in my heart,
My children to prove How Great Thou Art.

Lloyd Wagner, June 20, 1999
Modesto, California

GOD'S JUDGEMENT

God judged the matter and declared the consequences before man disobeyed. Satan, knowing what God had declared, was able to deceive Eve. In her desire to become wise, she was blinded to what the consequences would be.

Immediately after her disobedience, their behavior proved they had a knowledge they did not have before. When God came on the scene, they made a choice and hid. This is now the nature of all fallen humanity, which proves the knowledge of good and evil and God's judgement on it. God's judgement needed to be exercised. Adam and Eve very soon began to

experience the consequence of the choice they had made: misery and death were at their door.

The battle between God and Satan (on earth) began when man perceived the knowledge of good and evil. God has defined what is good and what is evil and has called man to the accountability of this. Those that choose the good will be blessed; those who choose evil will be cursed. "See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil." (Deut. 30:15)

Man is held accountable to define God's will in what is good and what is evil. This is the battle line between God and Satan. The earth is the arena, the souls of men are its subject, the battle is the Lord's. The Holy Spirit enables man to discern good and evil through His Holy Word. The Kingdom Christ has established is the messenger of eternal truth and is revealing the goodness of God with God's blessing upon it.

Even though much of Christianity has failed the test of revealing God's goodness and is supporting and condoning immorality and what God has judged evil, this does not annul God's witness. God has a people; they are intact with truth and one another and are experiencing the promises to those that are followers of good. "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?" (I Peter 3:12,13) This doesn't mean we will be spared physical suffering. We believe it means Satan cannot overcome us or separate us from one another (even in death) or destroy our peace and friendship in Christ's love. "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." (Acts 2:39)

Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

GOOD DEEDS

We all may do well
When we often do ill;
There is always the way
If there be but a will;
Though it be but a word
Kindly breathed or suppressed,
It may guard off some pain
Or give peace to some breast.

We all may do well
In a thousand small ways,
In forbearing to flatter
Yet yielding due praise,
In spurning all rumor,
Reproving wrong done
And treating but kindly
The hearts we have won

We all may do well
Whether lowly or great,
For the deed in not gauged
By the purse or estate,
If it be but a cup
Of cold water that's given,
Like the widow's two mites,
It is something for Heaven.

Selected from Aunt Bertie's collection

FOR YOUTH
Power of Prayer

" . . . Ye have not because ye ask not." (James 4:2) This is sometimes why the power of God is not exercised in one's life: "Ye ask not." There were many examples of power in the early church. Read Acts 2:47; 4:4; 5:14. They gave themselves "continually to prayer, and the ministry of the word." (Acts 6:4) The secret of the fullness of power of prayer is found in Acts 2:42: "They continued steadfastly. . . in prayers." God delights to answer our prayers. (Psalm 50:15) Isaiah 40:31: "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Real doers have been real pray-ers. The devil doesn't mind if churches have organizations and social activities. He is only afraid of God. Organization without prayer is organization without God. Prayer in sincerity, and belief in its power *accomplishes*. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16b)

Prayer cleanses from both known and secret sins. (Psalm 19:12,13 and 51:2) "Prayer changes things." You must ask God's forgiveness for these sins, known or unknown, in faith in His full pardon to be cleansed and then go forth victorious. Read Luke 11:13. Prayer can keep you from temptation. Psalm 17:5: "Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not." Jesus said, "Pray that ye enter not into temptation." When the disciples failed to do this, they utterly failed in the hour of temptation. Jesus spent the night in prayer and escaped the greatest temptation man ever had. You, too, can deny our Lord by sleeping instead of praying. Prayer was answered when the disciples prayed in their need: "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled

together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:31)

Prayer brings salvation. (I John 5:16) Prayer strengthens the ministers. There is strength and victory in both private and united prayers of the saints. We know it is true. May the grace of God, our Savior, grant you peace through the power of prayer.

James and Betty Beery
Williamsport, Indiana

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JOHN WESLEY'S RULE

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
As long as ever you can.
Selected

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Loving the Unlovely

There surely was a crowd here today! thought Katy's mama, glancing about at the groups of people in the churchyard. A wedding had brought visitors to the community, so a carry-in dinner followed the morning's church services. Now dinner was over, and the dishes washed. The children were playing, and the adults were visiting.

Suddenly Mama heard a commotion of angry children's voices, taunting laughter, and a strange groaning cry which she did not recognize. She quickly slipped around the corner toward the sounds and discovered a group of children, Katy included, teasing a young retarded girl who had tried to join in their fun. They were trying to make her leave.

"Katy!" Mama said sharply. "Be kind!" All the children became silent at her tone.

"But Mama," Katy said in a small voice, "she acts weird, and we don't want her slobbering on us."

"That does not excuse being cruel," Mama said. "You have made her very unhappy. You would all be happier if you could find a way to include her in your play."

Katy hung her head. She hadn't even thought about their actions being cruel, but now, seeing the girl's tears, she began to be very sorry.

"I'm sorry, Mama. I'll try," said Katy.

"Sorry," echoed several of the children.

It wasn't much later when Mama heard wild peals of laughter from the children, and again, that odd groaning. Distressed, Mama hurried toward the sounds, but stopped as she saw the girl sitting on the grass watching short-sightedly as the children ran about the yard trying to catch grasshoppers. "I got one!" shouted one of the boys, and all the children gathered around the girl. The boy leaned down to her and put his closed hand, palm up, very near her face. Then, as she leaned forward,

mouth gaping in breathless anticipation, he opened his hand. For a brief moment the tiny grasshopper was in full view. Then it leaped away, followed by her delighted groaning-laughter.

Mama smiled as the children laughed and ran to catch another one. It was obvious they were no longer repulsed by the girl and were having fun. It had been another good lesson in kindness.

Martha Wagner
Gettysburg, Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

Pilgrimage

Through the night of doubt and sorrow
Onward goes the pilgrim band,
Singing songs of expectation,
Marching to the promised land.
Clear before us through the darkness
Gleams and burns the guiding light;
Brother clasps the hand of brother,
Stepping fearless through the night.

One the light of God's own presence
O'er His ransomed people shed,
Chasing far the gloom and terror,
Brightening all the path we tread:
One the object of our journey,
One the faith which never tires,
One the earnest looking forward,
One the hope our God inspires;

One the strain that lips of thousands
Lift as from the heart of one;
One the conflict, one the peril,
One the march in God begun;

One the gladness of rejoicing
On the far eternal shore,
Where the one almighty Father
Reigns in love for evermore.

Onward, therefore, pilgrim brothers,
Onward with the cross our aid!
Bear its shame and fight its battle.
Till we rest beneath its shade;
Soon shall come the great awakening,
Soon the rending of the tomb;
Then the scattering of all shadows,
And the end of toil and gloom.

Bernhardt Severin Engemann, 1789-1862
Translated by Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924
Selected by Michael Harris

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." 1 Peter 2:11

TEACH ME TO PRAY

Teach me to pray, my Father, in life's morning,
For there are many things that I must learn;
Help me to find in Thee both help and warning,
I need Thy guiding voice at every turn.

And now I trust in Thee,
For help to Thee I flee.

Teach me to pray, my Father, at the noontime,
When life is busy and there's much to do;
I need Thy guidance, for my duties throng me,
And every moment I need strength anew.

My Helper every day,
Keep me in Thine own way.

Teach me to pray, my Father, in the evening;
My busy days are passing like a dream;
The shadows lengthen, and I'm growing weary
And tired as I catch the twilight's gleam.

Still undone things I long to do;
Oh, keep me calm and strength renew. Amen

--Lina Z. Ressler

Selected from *Zion's Praises*

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IN TOUCH WITH OUR SAVIOR

The parting was "such sweet sorrow." The old friends had renewed their friendship and were now saying "Goodbye." "Let's keep in touch; let's communicate. Write to me; give me a call," they agreed.

How good it is when friends can remember each other and hold each other up by prayer and encouragement!

Jesus, our best Friend, has gone back to His Heavenly Home. He accomplished for us what the Father sent Him to do: salvation for all who come to Him in faith and repentance. He has promised to be with us even though He has gone to the Father. "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." But communication must work both ways. If only one friend writes letters or makes all the phone calls, the friendship is lacking something. We need to "keep in touch" with our Savior.

What does it mean to keep in touch? With our friends we usually think of letters, phone calls, gifts, messages through mutual friends, and now E mail and fax machines. With our Lord it is through prayer, meditation, and studying His Word. We are in touch in our spirits through these means.

Touch has special significance. The woman that had an infirmity and had spent all her living on physicians who could not help her, heard of Jesus and knew in her heart that if she could only touch the hem of His garment, she would be healed. In the crowd she furtively touched Him and immediately felt His healing power flow to her. Wonderful things can happen when we are in touch with Jesus.

Another instance: "And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto

him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean." (Mark 1:40,41)

We see that the benefit flows from Jesus to those who come in contact with Him. So will it be when we are in touch with the Master. He has good things for us.

To make some comparisons, we are warned against touching a bare wire, hot with electrical current. Contact with high voltage can be fatal. But we benefit much from electricity that is in control. For those who know the difference between direct current and alternating current, we can see some similarity to keeping in touch. Our common alternating current changes direction of the flow of electrons sixty times (or cycles) a second. This could symbolize our back and forth communication with one another.

Direct current always flows in one direction and could represent the benefit we receive from God--always coming from Him to us. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:7)

Most comparisons seem to fall short of the whole picture. Even in "direct current" where the benefits flow from God to us, we are to return to Him our thanks and praise.

Good contact is important in electricity and also in our relationship to our Savior. Corroded contact points or a broken place in the circuit can stop the flow. Let us keep the switches turned on and the contacts clean so love and blessing can freely flow from the Savior and among the saints.

It is said, "We are just as close to God at any given moment as we desire to be." This is because God is always faithful, and He has offered repeatedly through the ages, "I will be a Father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters." That is a close relationship--a blood relationship that allows contact, communication, and countless benefits. --L.C.

HENRY KURTZ, PIONEER BRETHREN PUBLISHER

Henry Kurtz is the man who revived interest in printing among the Brethren. For more than a score of years he held to the conviction that the people he had joined should have a church paper. (Kurtz had been trained for the Lutheran ministry but later cast his lot with the Brethren.) This is how it happened that in 1833 and again in 1836 he started such publications. But it was not until 1851 that he began his successful experiment, though even then it was merely a personal venture for which he had no official encouragement.

The new era in our church literature stems from his Gospel Visitor, Brethren Encyclopedia (which Brother Owen Cripe completed), and such other printing projects as he fathered.

Henry Kurtz was not a superman, but he possessed the training, viewpoint, and ability which enabled him to determine the outlook of a denomination. He had more than the usual education when our educated men were very few. He had the perspective of one from the outside when our people were provincial in thought and circumscribed in viewpoint. He had the patience, tact, and skills required to bring a vision to reality when others were content with things as they were.

For some men the kindest thing one can do is to forget the circumstances of a wasted life. How different in the case of Henry Kurtz! Here is the story of a man's life that is worth knowing. Just why he has been so largely overlooked in Brethren history may seem strange at first. But one must remember that he was too busy to bother with personal records, that those who immediately followed him were really too near to grasp fully his significance in relation to Brethren history.

Through Henry Kurtz one can glimpse the unique George Hoke, moderator of Annual Conference at least eleven times, for it was Hoke's preaching that converted Kurtz, and by him

that Kurtz was baptized. Such men as John Kline and Abraham H. Cassel were contemporaries and friends of Kurtz. As editor, author, preacher, and for nearly twenty years clerk of Annual Meeting, he was truly a leader among our church leaders.

In April of 1851 several hundred persons received an unexpected item through the mails. We do not know just how many because the mailing was not over a paid list of subscribers, but "to brethren who had not called for them, but whom he supposed would perhaps be willing to receive and introduce the Visitor in their neighborhood." When opened, the unexpected item proved to be a sixteen-page magazine approximately six by nine inches in size. Many who read it found that it was indeed the long-expected paper which Henry Kurtz had proposed some two years before.

On looking through the first copy of the *Monthly Gospel Visitor*, the reader found it began with a well-written "Address to the Reader." This was followed by a short statement of the plan for the work. Next came two articles. The first, "The Fraternity of German Baptists," was by the editor. The second was a selected item taken from the *American Messenger*. Two new books were reviewed at considerable length. Then came four pages of correspondence, a little more than two pages of selected matter for the young, and about two pages of poetry. Though the little *Monthly Visitor* went bravely forth, it was not many days before the editor began to wonder about what reception the Visitor might receive, for the May issue was in process and any light on the reception of the April number would be valuable for the guidance of the editor. But a strange quiet prevailed, so much so that the disappointed editor wrote in the May Visitor: "Since we issued the first number . . . we have received a number of letters, but with the exception of one, none refers to our present undertaking." This one letter was mildly favorable, laying some stress on the value of the

publication as a means to preventing misunderstanding as between different parts of the Brotherhood.

The measure of the editor's greatness is evident in the persistent yet patient way in which he sought to clear the way for the establishment of a church paper. He might have plunged ahead in defiance of opposition, but Kurtz had the grace to labor and to wait. Thus it was that the decision of the Yearly Meeting for 1851, while not final, lifted a great burden from his mind. He came home to write: "Well, thanks to God, this uncertainty about the continuance of the Visitor is removed, so far as the Yearly Meeting could do it. . . We find prejudice is giving way, and our weak efforts to serve the truth and the brotherhood are kindly appreciated. To all those who have exerted themselves in behalf of the Visitor, our most heartfelt thanks."

Condensed from an article in the *Gospel Messenger*,
June 16, 1951 By Harry A. Brandt

THE CHURCH WALKING WITH THE WORLD

The Church and the World walked far apart
On the changing shore of time;
The World was singing a giddy song,
And the Church a hymn sublime.
"Come give me your hand," said the merry World,
"And then walk with me this way."
But the Church hid her snowy hand
And solemnly answered, "Nay."

"I will not give my hand at all,
And I will not walk with you;
Your way is the way of eternal death,
And your words are all untrue."
"Nay, walk with me a little space,"
Said the World with a kindly air,
"The road I walk is a pleasant road,
And the sun shines always there."

"Your way is narrow and thorny and rough,
While mine is flowery and smooth;
Your lot is sad with reproach and toil,
But in rounds of joy I move.
My way you can see, is a broad, fair one,
And my gate is high and wide;
There is room enough for you and me,
And we'll travel side by side."

Half shyly the Church approached the World,
And gave him her hand of snow;
And the false World grasped it, and walked along
And whispered in accents low,
"Your dress is too simple to please my taste;
I have gold and pearls to wear;
Rich velvets and silks for your graceful form,
And diamonds to deck your hair."

The Church looked down at the plain white robes,
And then at the dazzling World,
And blushed as she saw his handsome lip
With a smile contemptuous curled;
"I will change my dress for a costlier one."
Said the Church with a smile of grace.
Then her pure white garments drifted away,
And the World gave in their place

Beautiful satins and fashionable silks
And roses and gems and pearls;
And over her forehead her bright hair fell
And waved in a thousand curls.
"Your house is too plain," said the proud old World.
"Let us build you one like mine,
With kitchen for feasting and parlor for play,
And furniture ever so fine."

So he built her a costly and beautiful house,
Splendid it was to behold;
Her sons and daughters met frequently there,
Shining in purple and gold.

And fair and festival--frolics untold
Were held in the place of prayer;
And maidens bewitching as sirens of old,
With world-winning graces rare

Bedecked with fair jewels and hair all curled
Untrammelled by Gospel or Laws,
To beguile and amuse and win from the World,
Some help for the righteous cause.
The Angel of mercy rebuked the Church,
And whispered, "I know thy sin."
Then the Church looked sad and anxiously longed
To gather the children in.

But some were away at the midnight ball,
And others were at the play;
And some were drinking in gay saloons,
And the angel went away.
And then said the World in soothing tones,
"Your much loved ones mean no harm,
Merely indulging in innocent sports."
So she leaned still on his proffered arm.

And smiled and chatted, and gathered flowers,
And walked along with the World:
While countless millions of precious souls
Were hungering for truth untold.
"Your preachers are all too old and plain,"
Said the gay World with a sneer.
"They frighten my children with dreadful tales
Which I do not like to hear.

"They talk of judgments and fire and pain,
And the gloom of darkest night.
They warn of a place that should not be
Thus spoken to ears polite!
I will send you some--a better stamp--
More brilliant and gay and fast,
Who will show how men may live as they list
And go to heaven at last.

"The Father is merciful, great, and good,
Loving and tender and kind.
Do you think He'd take one child to heaven
And leave another behind?"
So she called for pleasing and gay divines,
Deemed gifted and great and learned;
And the plain old men that had preached the cross
Were out of her pulpits turned.

Then Mammon came in and supported the Church,
And rented a prominent pew;
And preaching and singing and floral display
Soon proclaimed a gospel new.
"You give too much to the poor," said the World,
"Far more than you ought to do;
Though the poor need shelter, food, and clothes,
Why thus need it trouble you?

"Go take your money and buy rich robes
And horses and carriages fine;
And pearls and jewels and dainty food,
The rarest and costliest wine,
My children they dote on all such things,
And if you their love would win,
You must do as they do and walk in the way,
The flowery way they're in."

Then the Church her purse-strings tightly held
And gracefully lowered her head,
And simpered, "I've given too much away;
I will do, sir, as you have said."
So the poor were turned from the door in scorn;
She heard not the orphans' cry;
And she drew her beautiful robes aside
As the widows went weeping by.

And they of the Church and they of the World
Journeyed closely, hand and heart,
And none but the master, who knoweth all,
Could discern the two apart.

Then the Church sat down at her ease and said,
 "I'm rich and in goods increased;
 I have need of nothing, and naught to do
 But to laugh and dance and feast."
 The sly World heard her and laughed within,
 And mockingly said aside,
 "The Church has fallen--the beautiful Church;
 Her shame is her boast and pride."

Thus her witnessing power, alas, was lost,
 And perilous times came in;
 The times of the end, so often foretold,
 Of form and pleasure and sin.
 Then the Angel drew near the mercy-seat
 And whispered in sighs her name,
 And the saints their anthems of rapture hushed
 And covered their heads with shame.

A voice came down from the hush of heaven,
 From Him who sat on the throne;
 "I know thy works and what thou hast said,
 But alas! thou hast not known
 That thou art poor and naked and blind
 With pride and ruin enthralled;
 The expectant Bride of a heavenly Groom
 Is the harlot of the World!
 Thou hast ceased to watch for that blessed hope,
 Hast fallen from zeal and grace;
 So now, alas! I must cast thee out,
 And blot thy name from its place."

Matilda C. Edwards,
 Grape Hill, Va., January 3, 1874
 Selected by Karen Johnson

FALL COMMUNION NOTICES

Wakarusa, Indiana	October 2,3
Salida, California	October 16,17

All are welcome to these services. Come and bring friends.

GOD'S WRATH

Of all the attributes of God, His wrath seems more difficult than all others for man to understand. How can love and wrath relate to each other? Had man not disobeyed, they would never have experienced or known God's wrath.

Creation is God's possession. He has all rights to its existence. This all came to pass through the attribute of love. This is the side of God that will ultimately prevail. For this to come about, Satan needs to be destroyed because he and his subjects will not respond to love. Therefore to preserve God's sovereignty, evil will be eliminated by His wrath exercised in vengeance. (II Thess. 1:7-9)

The Scriptures giving the history of creation from the beginning till the time of Christ are the only authentic account of God's will and how He dealt with Satan and his subjects. Over and over again God's wrath in vengeance is what brought men to their senses to acknowledge that the God of Israel is the only true God. God's using a physical kingdom to prove His sovereignty is a classic exposition of His love and also His wrath--not only to those outside of His chosen people, but also to those within. Over and over again He used wicked nations to bring suffering and death to those He had chosen to be His people because of their disobedience--even to the point that it troubled the prophets that God used nations more wicked than Israel to bring this punishment upon His people.

God's response to them was that **all** wickedness will ultimately be destroyed. One of the classic accounts is that of Babylon and its King Nebuchadnezzar. The prophecies against this kingdom have come to pass and today there is even a question as to where this city was located.

To understand and know the purpose of God's wrath is a salvation requirement. It has taught of the helpless state man is in when he defies the true and living God. Not until the heart

can have reverence for His wrath can it conceive His love which is the only power available to the human heart that will overcome evil within itself.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever." (Psalm 111:10)

God spoke through Jeremiah in the fall of Jerusalem and its restoration: "Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: And they shall be my people, and I will be their God: And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them." (Jer. 32:37-39)

"And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?" (Deut. 10:12,13)

Kenneth Martin, Nappanee, Indiana

NOTE OF THANKS

To all of our dear brethren, friends, and loved ones,

"Thank-you" seems far too small a word to express our gratitude for the outpouring of support with which we have been blessed in the past five months. Phone calls, letters, cards, scrap books, visits, meals, help with chores, financial help, and much more are evidence of the love of Christ for us. Prayers on our behalf have undoubtedly been one of the greatest blessings: the privilege of knowing that God is in control, hears our petitions. . . and answers! Please continue to pray for healing and that God's will might be accomplished in each of our lives.

Lloyd and Beth Wagner and family

FOR YOUTH

The Power of a Surrendered Life

The secret of prevailing prayer is a surrendered life. "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." (I John 3:22) "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." (Psalm 37:4) "And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. (John 11:42) "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." (John 6:38) "... My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." (John 4:34) "Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God." (Hebrews 10:7)

There is great power in a daily surrendered life. "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. (Rom. 6:13) "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. (Rom. 6:22)

There are results of a surrendered life. "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." (John 7:17) "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." (I John 1:5)

If your will is not surrendered, there are results too. "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"

(Matt.6:22,23) What a responsibility and privilege as we profess to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid," we read in Matthew 5:14. May every word, thought, and deed bring glory to His name.

A surrendered life brings joy overflowing. "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." (John 15:10,11)

Christ is manifested through a surrendered life. "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him and will manifest myself to him." (John 14:21) Also read I Thess. 4:16; John 4:23; and John 20:20.

He gives the one surrendered to Him the Holy Spirit. "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him." (Acts 5:32)

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." (I John 5:14,15)

May it be a joy to you to surrender to Him, knowing that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8:28)

I surrender all; I surrender all.

All to Thee, my blessed Savior,

I surrender all. **Have you?**

James and Betty Beery, Williamsport, Indiana

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CHILDREN'S PAGE
Katy, Be Kind to Kitty

Toby purred as Katy straightened the lacy doll's bonnet so that it covered both ears again. He batted at the strings, then dabbled at her chin. She laughed. "Most babies don't act that way!" she scolded.

It was fun playing dress-up with the kitten, but it would be more fun if his sister would cooperate, too. Molly was stalking the blanket trailing from the baby buggy, and quickly Katy grabbed her. "You're going to cooperate this time!"

Molly's annoyed expression showed she didn't agree. She twisted and growled as Katy tried to put a doll dress on her.

"Naughty Kitty!" yelled Katy, as she cuffed the kitten. Molly gave a quick yowl, scratched frantically, and broke loose.

"Mama!" yelled Katy, running into the house. "Look what Molly did!" She held up her scratched hand. "I was just playing with her. Why is she so wild?"

"Molly's not wild, Katy. She lets you pet her all the time. You must have been doing something she didn't like."

"I was just trying to dress her up. Toby lets me. Why won't Molly? She just growls and runs away!"

"Katy," Mama said, "Molly doesn't like being dressed up. Probably it frightens her. Think about how much bigger you are than she is. She is rather brave to trust you at all, don't you think? Would you like something that much bigger than you trying to wrap you up in something strange? Toby is special for letting you play with him like that. Don't try to make Molly do things she doesn't like. It isn't kind. The Bible says we should be kind, even to animals. If you pet Molly nicely, you'll get along very well with her. Now, we'd better wash those scratches so they don't get infected."

Martha Wagner, Gettysburg, Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

The Pilgrim's Farewell

Pilgrims, with pleasure let us part,
Since we are of one mind and heart;
No length of days, no distant place,
Can ever break these bands of grace.

A few more rolling days and years,
Shall bring a period to our tears,
Soon shall we reach the blissful shore,
Where parting shall be known no more.

Hymn 357

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from
fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

IF WE COULD SEE BEYOND TODAY

If we could see beyond today
As God can see;
If all the clouds should roll away,
The shadows flee;
O'er present griefs we would not fret.
Each sorrow we would soon forget,
For many joys are waiting yet
For you and me.

If we could know beyond today
As God doth know,
Why dearest treasures pass away
And tears must flow;
And why the darkness leads to light,
Why dreary paths will soon grow bright;
Some day life's wrongs will be made right,
Faith tells us so.

"If we could see, if we could know,"
We often say,
But God in love a veil doth throw
Across our way;
We cannot see what lies before,
And so we cling to Him the more,
He leads us till this life is o'er;
Trust and obey.

Author unknown

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LESSONS FROM JOB

My garden chopper purred steadily as I fed in cornstalks to grind for the cows. I was glad for the corn to feed since grain and hay are so costly, and I have to buy them. Suddenly I was surprised by a loud "CLUNK" and the chopper stopped. There was no question--my corn chopping for that time was done. I pulled out unground stalks and found a loose bolt with fibers wrapped tightly around it. Sometimes the routine of our lives is abruptly changed, and we know it is something vital.

It happened to Job. He did not see behind the scenes where God was calling him "a perfect and an upright man," and Satan was accusing him of serving God for gain. He did not see God give Satan the freedom to test him by taking away the blessings God had given him. He only heard the "clunk." His oxen, asses, sheep, camels, and sons and daughters were all taken.

Job responded well: "Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Was Satan satisfied that God's evaluation of Job was true? Satan is never happy with God's children. "Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face." Again God allowed Satan to test Job--this time with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. *Misery* is perhaps not a strong enough word to describe his suffering. Again, without understanding it and against his wife's advice to curse God and die, Job retained integrity and "did not sin with his lips."

The experiences of Job did not end there. After his three friends sat down to comfort him and could only accuse him; after Job had complained, cursed his day, and pled with God to take his life; after God instructed him by hard questions; Job came through with victory. He gave glory to God. He confessed ". . . I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. . . Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

As you know, God restored to him twice what he had before, besides more sons and daughters. God said to his three friends, ". . . ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, **as my servant Job hath.**"

How good God is! The experiences of Job prove His goodness, His wisdom, His care of His children, and His omnipotence.

I have a repair job to do on my chopper. Oh! that life's problems were so simple. We do not see behind the scenes; many times we wonder why. Why me? But why not me? Is it sickness? A crippling accident? Financial failure? Betrayal of friends? False accusations? A disastrous fire? These are only a few of seeming calamitous events that might befall us.

From Job we learn that God is in perfect control. We learn that Satan can go only as far as God allows. We learn that, for God's children, there is profit in suffering. Job's reward was earthly blessings. But the reward of the "born again" goes far beyond sheep and cattle and corn choppers. We might not see even a trace of earthly return. The martyrs didn't, and yet they rejoiced because they could see the greater blessings of everlasting life.

God sees the sparrow fall. Jesus tells us the hairs of our head are numbered and that we are of more value than many sparrows. The secret is trusting Him. Jesus came to redeem our souls so that earthly blessings no longer count for very much if only our names are written in heaven.

If we could talk to Job after his ordeal, he could give us good advice. And yet we have his example, his words of submission, and the record that God loved him and brought him through.

Some of our friends have testified that the experience of trials was valuable beyond measure. "I would rather have the experience than to have my fingers restored." "My sickness brought me closer to God." "I haven't suffered like my Savior suffered for me." "These things teach us patience and humility."

My aunt, who spent helpless years as a result of a paralyzing stroke, testified that the quiet, wakeful, wee hours of the morning were her time with God. My brother testifies that through his sickness he has been made more willing, even anxious, to go to be with the Lord.

"If ye endure chastisement, God dealeth with you as with sons. . . Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed." (Hebrews 12:7,11-13) --L.C.

Has calamity assailed us?
Has it left us cold, afraid?
Has our cheerfulness now failed us?
Is it right to be dismayed?

Look beyond the present terror;
It will only be for time;
Faith and hope in Christ our Savior
Prove our suffering is sublime.

If God chose to always bless us
With prosperity and peace,

Selfishness could then possess us;
Pride and greed would never cease.

God's kind furnace purifies us;
His own hand of mercy moves;
Makes us better, sanctifies us;
His blest will and love it proves. -L.C.

IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD

The path lies before us: straight, narrow, rocky; up hills and down into valleys, through mud and rain, hot desert sand, ice and snow; with travelers slipping, sliding, falling, rising, crawling, walking, running; crying in sorrow, laughing with joy, smiling with understanding, looking with concern, reaching to rescue. Through it all, the hands, feet, and voices of our loved ones are there, their faces shining with the image of Christ, a reflection of the distant vision on the far horizon. On both sides lie the world, taunting us with its alluring and enticing gadgets and pleasures. Occasionally one of our number veers off the path onto a pleasant avenue and cruises away, following the lust of the eyes and flesh, disappearing into the crowd. Sometimes there are sharp words and disagreements and misunderstandings, leaving one of our number veering off into a lonely lane that dead-ends in bitterness. Despite all this, we plod on, looking for them at the intersections, but going on in hope toward our vision, the image of Christ awaiting us at the end, welcoming us with salvation and eternal life with Him!

Continue or *persevere* means to *persist in an action, a purpose, despite obstacles*. In it we see the word *severe*, a definite strictness. Synonyms include *doggedness*, *steadfastness*, *tenacity*. *Tenacity* has the original meaning of

adhesiveness, as in glue. I think this gives us a clear picture of how close to "My Word" we are to "stick."

I John starts with, "*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard. . .*" Yes, most of us have heard from our beginnings. Do we continue to hear? ". . . *Which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon. . .*" Haven't we seen Jesus through our parents, our brethren and sisters, and certainly in the Word? ". . . *And our hands have handled, of the Word of life.*" We have affectionately handled the Word, reading and studying it. We have held our brothers' hands in greeting, in sorrow, in understanding. We have handled our brother's feet in washing, lost in the vision of Jesus' washing His disciples' feet in love. Yes, we must say, His life has been manifested unto us and continues to be. Praise the Lord! (I John 1:2)

". . . If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31,32) There is the condition of *if* we continue in His Word. There is concentration, study, research, meditation, communication, effort, work. In this way we learn to *know* the Word, to memorize, to understand meanings and implications. His Word is Truth and the Truth sets us free! We become adhered to His Word which makes us free of ourselves! (Jo. 8:36; II Th. 3:1; I Pe. 2:15-16)

It is ironic, but we are our biggest obstacle. Getting beyond ourselves is the most difficult task God has given us. We struggle, we despair, but only when we give up will we get anywhere! We must totally give up our lives to Jesus. We must become *nothing*, in order to become *something* for Him. To do this we must deal with our past and our present, and determine our future. "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps." (Pr. 16:9) It is a matter of deep, critical, painful self-examination, surrendering all to God. It is a great help to spill our heart out on paper, to get it out in front

of us in print. Then it is also a great help to confide in someone. Sometimes it is better to choose someone removed from our situation, unbiased, but with the same Gospel understanding.

So, to be free indeed, we must *know* the truth, but this must go beyond just knowing it; it must permeate our inner man, regenerating it into the attributes of Jesus, "That ye walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, *being fruitful in every good work*, and increasing in the knowledge of God; . . . to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel. . ." (Col. 1:10,22,23) To be fruitful in every good work is the purpose of being free in Jesus. But we are to be "clothed with humility," (I Pe. 5:5) because it is Christ *working in us* and we have nothing to boast about. Remember, we are free from our old selves through the power of Christ.

This brings us to some questions to ask ourselves. *Am I portraying the love of Christ?* Read Romans 8:35-39. *Do I speak the truth in love?* (Eph. 4:15) (Are we "growing up?") *Do I try to understand my brother; do I "walk a mile in his moccasins?"* (Phil. 1:27; Col. 3:9-14) "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it." "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have *wrought*, ("to earn by working"--Vines expository dictionary) but that we receive a full reward." (II John 6,8) The Word of God is what we have heard from the beginning whereby we have obtained our salvation through faith, not of works. But we see here that there is something to be earned by working: a full reward! Our faith, which developed our fervent love of the Gospel and of one another, compelled us to full obedience and the work of the Gospel. (I Cor. 3:12-14; II Thess.. 2:16,17)

"Continue" implies movement, moving onward. We can only move onward if we are free. A man in bondage is bound and can only move within his bounds which is himself. A man in the freedom of Christ finds himself liberated of himself and in the liberty of Christ. "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, *and continueth therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of *the work*, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1:25) There are also bounds in the liberty of Christ, but we are freed from sin and self, transformed into the glorious liberty of Christ. "Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." (Rom. 8:21)

Jesus said, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love." (John 15:9) The Hebrew writer said, "Let brotherly love continue." (Heb. 13:1) Paul said, ". . . if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety." (I Tim. 2:15) He was speaking of women, but this certainly pertains to men also. Paul also states, ". . . that the truth of the gospel might continue with you." (Gal. 2:5) Certain brethren had come in unawares with the purpose to undermine the liberty of Christ with the bondage of the law. He exhorts us to remain steadfast in the truth of the Gospel, refusing to turn even a little to the right or the left. "If ye continue in My Word."

To continue faithfully will be to suffer many things and to endure tribulation. (See Acts 14:22.) It's not an easy road, but it's the road that Christ has left for us, and He has made it passable through His Spirit who empowers us to continue. "Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." (II Peter 3:4) We see changes in the world that indicate His second coming is near. His promise is sure; His time is different from our time, but we see signs of that time nearing, "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book." ". . . my reward is

with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."
"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may
have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates
into the city." (Rev. 22:7,12,14) "*Continue* in prayer, and
watch in the same with thanksgiving." (Col. 4:2)

Ron Cable, Williamsport, Indiana

BAPTISMS

September 11 Anna Cover of Tuolumne, California

September 26 Timothy Yoder of Middlebury, Indiana

May they continue in the faith and love of Jesus, our Savior.

BIRTH

CABLE - A son, Mark Eldon, born August 3 to Andrew and
Joanna Cable of Wakarusa, Indiana.

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A CHALLENGING THOUGHT

"If we are Christians and do not have upon us the calling to respond to the lostness of the lost and a compassion for those of our kind for this life and eternity, our orthodoxy is ugly. And it's ugly in the presence of anybody who's an honest person. And more than that, orthodoxy without compassion is ugly to God." (Francis Schaeffer in *A Christian View of the Church*)

If we have a faith worth keeping, worth having, we have a faith worth sharing to anybody--anybody in the whole world! And our hearts must burn with love for them--if we have a heart like Jesus'. Can't this just burn in our very bosoms if we are true, regenerated disciples of Christ?

Michael Harris, Goshen, Indiana

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

O Great Physician, Prince of Peace,
We bow before Thee now
To humbly ask that You will reach
Thy healing to bestow.

Our bodies are but earthen clay,
Decaying bit by bit;
Thy will be done, O Lord, we pray,
For Thy kingdom make us fit.

Thy word reveals that suffering brings
A ceasing from life's sin;
Cover us with almighty wings,
True healing bring within.

If then these mortal bodies fail,
Or even if they die,
We know because of Christ's travail,
Our home's beyond the sky.

Christ is our Life, our Way, our Hope;
Let come to us what may;
He is our Rock midst every strife;
Thanks be to God, we pray.

Lloyd Wagner
Modesto, California

HYMN HISTORY

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

In the early 1500's a German peasant named Martin Luther was working his way through school when he came near being killed by a bolt of lightning. Pondering his close call with death, Luther changed his course of study from law to that of theology. At twenty-four he was ordained a priest.

Martin Luther differed with policies of the Roman Church. He challenged the supremacy of the Pope and spoke out against indulgence taxes. Luther said that everybody should read the Bible. And he said all should be allowed to sing in church. He spent thirteen years translating the Bible into his native German language. He wrote thirty-seven hymns. He outlined his contentions in ninety-five points and on October 31, 1517, nailed his theses to the door of the Wittenburg Castle Church for all to see. The Pope issued an edict for Luther's excommunication. Luther's writings were burned. Luther promptly burned the Pope's edict.

Emperor Charles V commanded Luther to retract. He refused and was sentenced by the court. The elector who was charged to keep him in custody was his friend and turned his back while Luther escaped to carry on his work of the Reformation.

Martin Luther and his followers were ever being hauled into court. To give his followers courage on the eve of yet another court appearance in 1529, he wrote this hymn:

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Information from *A Hymn Is Born*, by Clint Bonner
1959 Broadman Press. Used by permission.

Jean Martin

Goshen, Indiana

GOD'S JUSTICE

The complaint in human history is that life isn't fair. We believe this is the root cause of sin, misery, and suffering.

This battle began in heaven. Satan's interference in God's will and dominion was caused by the spirit of inferiority which creates a spirit of rebellion. This is then vindicated in vengeance. Vengeance exercised is then the sin that separates man from the Spirit and love of God.

To violate God's truth in moral laws or in our demanding of justice in life's struggles is a vindication of our refusal to relate

to God's justice that is awaiting all men, whether good or evil. The reason it will be just is because God revealed to man the rewards and punishments of the choices we make.

The first conflict in human history reveals this when Cain rose up and slew his brother. Cain was offended at God. Cain's refusal to accept justice was expressed in vengeance. So it is with the human race ever since.

God, in confronting Cain, asked him, "Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him." The last sentence in the above verse in the NIV is said this way: "It desires to have you, but you must master it." This means Satan desires to have our devotion, but we must rule over him. If Cain would only have taken heed, it would have spared him the vengeance that God's justice now required.

To trust and accept God's justice is a salvation requirement because from this knowledge we can relate to God's justice in grace and mercy and also His wrath and vengeance.

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord; Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." (Heb. 12:14,15)

To fail the grace of God would be the saddest experience of the human heart--to think that we are under the canopy of grace and fail the test. It is evident by the Scriptures that many will experience this very thing.

Peace and holiness can not be separated; if we have one, we will have the other. To have peace, we are in total agreement with God's justice and are at rest in life's callings. Holiness is the act and expression of peace. We are at peace with suffering and physical death. The flesh dies daily to the things that would mar our peace, and we trust in God's justice.

A bitter spirit can not be hid, and though we try to adorn it with an ecclesiastical robe, it can not love. When we can't love, we become murderers, and we know no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (I John 3:15) This is God's justice declared and will never be altered.

Ezekiel 18:25-32: "Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal?"

"When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die.

"Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.

"Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

"Yet saith the house of Israel, The way of the Lord is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal?"

"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

"Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

"For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye."

Kenneth Martin

Napanee, Indiana

To be a missionary we don't have to cross the sea, but we do have to see the cross. --Selected

CHILDREN'S STORY

Be Kind Even to Pests

"That fly surely is pesky!" Brian grumped. He and his family had just eaten Sunday dinner at Katy's house, and the children were now playing together in Katy's room. A large fly was bumbling around the room, beating itself against the window, and repeatedly landing on the children.

"I'll get the fly swatter!" Katy said.

"No! Let me try to catch it and show you something funny! If you pull one wing off, it can't fly. It just keeps spinning when it tries." replied Brian.

Just then the fly landed on the window sill and began busily cleaning itself. Brian tried to catch it between his fingers, but it saw him coming and flew away.

Soon he spied another slow-moving fly on the screen. Old and tired, it didn't respond so quickly, and he easily caught it, pulled a wing off, and dropped the fly onto the window sill. It made a small effort to fly, then just sat there unmoving.

As Brian poked at it to scare it, his father called that it was time to leave, and the fly was forgotten. After they were gone, Katy went back to look at the fly, and found it on its back, legs waving helplessly. It tried to fly as Katy approached, but only spun off onto the floor. It did look funny, but then Katy noticed the wound where the wing had been pulled off. Suddenly she realized it was probably in pain and afraid. It wasn't funny any more. Tears began to fill her eyes as she ran to tell her mama.

Katy had hardly begun her story before Mama grabbed the swatter and quickly put an end to the fly. Then she sat down and drew Katy to her. "I'm glad to see that you understand the need to be kind, even to pests," she said.

"Is it cruel to kill them?" Katy asked.

"No, it isn't. Sometimes killing pests is part of good husbandry," Mama replied. "We must try to do so quickly without making them suffer, though. Some say bugs can't feel. Maybe they can't, but needlessly causing fear or anger is cruel, too. After all, they are little miracles of God, and He cares about them, too, don't you think?"

Martha Wagner
Gettysburg, Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage. (Psalm 119:54) Can we sing for joy about the ways and statutes of God as we pass through this land on our way heavenward? God is good and leads His dear children along. --L.C.

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

THANKSGIVING

Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. --Ephesians 5:20

For all that God in mercy sends--
For health and children, home, and friends;
For comfort in the time of need,
For every kindly word and deed,
For happy thoughts and holy talk,
For guidance in our daily walk--
In everything give thanks!

For beauty in this world of ours,
For verdant grass and lovely flowers,
For songs of birds, for hum of bees,
For the refreshing summer breeze,
For hill and plain, for stream and wood,
For the great ocean's mighty flood--
In everything give thanks!

For the sweet sleep that comes at night,
For the returning morning light,
For the bright sun that shines on high,
For the stars glittering in the sky--
For these and everything we see,
O Lord, our hearts we lift to Thee;
In everything give thanks!

E. I. Tupper
Selected

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THANKSGIVING

The sea seems restless this morning. Unusually large waves crash upon the rocks changing the dark water to white foam. The rocks remain unchanged. But while the rocks are firm, it can be dangerous to climb on them--especially when the surf is so high. Only yesterday here at Monterey Bay, a bride was swept off the rocks at "Lovers' Point." She and her new husband were taking pictures beyond the yellow ribbon warning of danger. She was pulled from the water after about fifteen minutes, but too late to save her life.

In what way could rocks and high surf remind us of thanksgiving? This is a vivid picture of Christian experience. There is solid rock to stand on--Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and for ever. No amount of turmoil can move those who are firm on the Rock. But there is danger when we ignore the warnings and stray into forbidden areas.

There is something constant and relentless about the adversary's assaults on the church, on its members, and on the very truth of God. It is part of the battle that began when Satan rebelled and will end when he is put down. Meanwhile, the war rages around us like the restless sea.

Today we should be especially thankful for safety in Christ. There is unrest in the world around us as we enter a new millennium. But notice the cause for this fear. It seems to be the fear of failure of man-made computers. It is not the fear of God. The Bible says that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. It also tells us not to fear man who can only destroy the body, "but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

I am thankful today for the simple faith of our fathers. We are glad for those who can study into the deep mysteries of God's truth. But most of us must simply believe the record. One preacher was telling of Elijah and the widow's food, the miraculous barrel of meal and cruse of oil. He paused and asked, "Do you believe this?" When we believe, we are believers; when we do not believe, we are doubters.

The theory of evolution seems not to receive so much attention now. But if this is true, it is only because it is now so widely accepted as fact. We cannot accept this theory and believe the Bible. Thank God for parents and teachers who simply believe the Word of God. "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." (II Tim. 2:19)

We should be thankful for the abundance of food in our land. We pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," and hardly think that it will not keep coming. How sad when we waste good food or do not appreciate it! A few days ago we passed a field where sweet potatoes had been harvested. The ground was littered with small and scarred yams that had been left. A few people had come to glean, but most of that good food was left to spoil--hundreds of pounds that would have fed many had there been a need. (With permission, we loaded our trunk.)

Our thanksgiving should include appreciation for the skill of doctors, dentists, and other health care workers. Though controversy rages about just how it is to be administered, we hear of very few in our land who do not receive expert care.

Then there are friends, family, and faithful companions. God has not left us alone to make our way without support and encouragement from fellow followers. God is good. Jesus, our best Friend, has promised to accompany us all the way-- in every valley and trial.

Thank our Father for His Word. He has preserved it at great cost. We have in our home at least twenty-five copies of the Scriptures. How many do you have? In the dark ages and even later, it was a crime to have *one*.

We could go on listing the beauties and pleasures of a world that God created and pronounced very good. We do not deserve the abundance God has given. But we read that if we fathers know how to give our children good gifts, surely our Heavenly Father knows how to care for us and give us His Holy Spirit. May our hearts respond in thankful service. --L.C.

PRAISE

Praise is comely; praise is fitting;
Our Redeemer hears each word;
Let our hearts, ourselves forgetting,
Open wide to thank our Lord.

Sing it out--the new song's stanzas--
Let the folks around us hear;
It is God that wisely hands us
All the blessings of the year.

Loose my tongue, O Lord, my Savior;
Touch my heart and help me sing.
Let Thy grace "my soul's chief treasure,"
Kindle there my thank offering.

As the century passes by us;
As millenniums roll around;
May God's praise possess the pious
May we stand on holy ground.

Soon the Savior's shout from heaven
Shall resound o'er land and sea;
Soon we'll see Him, Christ, the Blessed,
Coming back in victory. --L.C.

THANKSGIVING DAY

It is the duty of man to be thankful to God in all things. For from Him cometh "every good gift, and every perfect gift." (James 1:17)

The church frequently assembles for that purpose. Where is the genuine Christian whose fields have been abundantly blessed with the "early and the latter rain," and have produced him an abundant crop so that he may have enough, and perhaps to spare, who does not feel willing and considers it his duty to frequently give one day to the Lord, separate and apart from all others, for the special purpose of thanking Him that he is still numbered with the living, and that he has still food to eat and clothes to wear?

We are frequently admonished to our duty by our rulers; men in authority. And we think there is perfect safety in complying with their requests, so long as they ask no more of us than is really our duty. "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man, for the Lord's sake." (I Peter 2:13)

Then let us all attend to this matter and show forth our gratefulness to Him who provides for us all.

For various reasons have we come
Before the Lord with prayer and song;
We see that His all-bounteous hand
Has scattered blessing o'er the land.

Our fields were amply set with grain;
Thus were our labors blessed again;
Let every earthly blessing prove
Our thankfulness to him we love.

--Samuel Kinzie, 1865 From "The Pious Companion"
Selected by Joseph E. Wagner

MARRIAGE IN THE LORD

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord." (Pro. 18:22)

How many people that are married today have not obtained the blessing of this proverb! The verse surely means, "Whoso findeth a **godly** wife."

So how can we obtain favor of the Lord in the matter of marriage? The answer obviously is to be in God's will, the same as any other area of our lives that we want God's favor in, and we can find His will in His Word. Alexander Mack wrote in *Rights and Ordinances*, "The state of marriage of two persons who are one in the fear of God, and in faith in God, is ordained and blessed by God Himself."

Our marriages should be grounded on truth. Let's ground our lives, or build them, on the Rock. All other ground is sinking sand. You don't have to look very far or long to see the results of marriages built on the sand. They are collapsing all around us. Thank God He did not leave us without answers. We have a Book that tells us how to find a godly partner--how to found marriages on the Rock.

Paul writes in II Cor. 6:14-18, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?" (To all these things I think we can say that we have absolutely none, other than being a witness to them for truth. We're not to be partners with them.) Then Paul goes on, "For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate,

saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

I hope we all want to be God's sons and daughters and have Him for our Father. He says He will be our Father *if* we "Come out from among them, and be ye *separate*," Paul writes on in chapter seven, verse one, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

Who are we supposed to come out from among, and not fellowship with, and not be yoked to? *Unbelievers*. The Old and New Testament tell us plainly why not. God told the children of Israel time after time not to marry or associate with the nations around them, so they wouldn't be led astray. When they did marry outsiders, they *were* led astray, and God cast them off.

Paul tells us here in II Cor. 6, "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what communion hath light with darkness?" Today people like to make gray areas. They say it's all right to marry children of other Christians who were raised in the church and, no doubt, believe in God. In Old Testament times that may have been the right answer, but I don't think that is what it is talking about under the New Covenant. We must now serve God from the heart to be Israelites. Another quote from Alexander Mack: "If an unmarried person marries, he commits no sin provided it occurs in the Lord Jesus and is performed in the true belief of Jesus Christ--that is, that they are one in true faith in Jesus Christ according to His commandments."

To me it looks like there are three classes of people: *those that aren't accountable*, and of those that are accountable we have *believers* and *unbelievers*. Surely of these three classes of people there is only one class a Christian is permitted to marry,

and it's not unbelievers or those not yet accountable. So how can we tell if someone is a true believer? First of all, we should pray and ask God for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Then look in His Word and see what it says on the subject.

Jesus said in Matt. 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." He's speaking here of food and raiment, but no doubt the same would be true for any area of our lives. A true Christian will first seek the kingdom of God.

Jesus said in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. . ." So that is a gauge we have. If they truly believe, they will be baptized. So all we have to do is make sure whoever we date or marry has been baptized or is a member of the church, right? Wrong! Sad as it may be, there are church members who are not seeking first the kingdom of God. But God still doesn't leave us in the dark in making our choices. Jesus said in Matt. 7:20,21, "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." True, we must say, "Lord, Lord," but we must also do His will. The most obvious sign would be if they have been baptized and covenanted to live faithful to God till death. God does require His children to be baptized. He also requires them to be submissive to the rest of His will or Word. We find in Rom. 13:1,2 another gauge: "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation." Are they submissive to their parents, to their elders, to the fellowship of believers? If they are not, we can know they are resisting God, and if they don't repent, they shall receive to themselves damnation. And we don't want to

have any fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Look in Gal. 5:19-24 at the list of spiritual fruit and carnal fruit. Which fruit are their lives bearing? By their fruits ye shall know them. Again, just because someone is a church member, does not give the Christian license to be yoked to them. They must be seeking God first in their lives.

That brings us to another angle. Some people claim one can marry an unbeliever to convert him. People point to I Cor. 7:12-16 where it says if a husband or wife have an unbelieving partner, they should not put them away. Verses 16 and 17, "For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife? But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk." It says here if anyone *hath* a partner that believeth not, they should not put him away. Paul is speaking to those already in this condition of an unequal yoke. Many times only one partner was converted. But in no way does that sanction entering into an unequal yoke. It says, "As the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk." As Christians, we shouldn't even want to enter into an unequal yoke. Our goals, desires, and attitudes should be different from those of unbelievers. We should be seeking first the kingdom of God.

In I Cor. 7:39 it says that if a wife's husband dies, she may be married to whom she will, *only in the Lord*. People may say, "Yes, but that only applies to widows." I doubt that God has two laws; one for widows and one for people who were never married. Besides, it clearly supports II Cor. 6:14 where it says, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." It's just that simple: *be ye not--only in the Lord*.

We must remember we can't serve two masters. Either we serve God or mammon. We can't serve God and self. There have been people who have married church members, and discovered, or maybe admitted, too late that they were serving

something besides our Father in heaven. That surely isn't necessary. Christian courtship should be a time to learn to know each other spiritually and intellectually, *never* physically.

We have not only people's word or talk to gauge by, we have their lives to observe. That's what really counts. What are we living for? To glorify God with and through our lives, or to glorify self? Not necessarily that that's all someone can think or talk about: "the Lord this, or the Lord that." It's more than saying, "Lord, Lord." We have to do (live) the will of the Father. How do people dress and talk? What do they think is humorous? The list could go on and on. Our lives show who our master is. If we enter into courtship sincerely, wanting God's will, not ours, in finding a partner, He will not let us down.

Let's not think, "It will be different with me. I can marry whomsoever I will and it will turn out all right." For many people it has not. Solomon writes in Pro. 6:27, "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" Solomon himself, wise as he was, tried it and he got badly burned. Nehemiah writes about it in Neh. 13:25,26, "And I contended with them and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves. Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin."

If Solomon, with all his wisdom, couldn't get by with disobedience in this area, how do we think we can? We can't! You might say, "I know someone, or maybe more than one, that tried it and survived." Possibly so. Praise the Lord for His longsuffering and grace. But my guess is that Solomon and the Israelites of Nehemiah's time could have pointed to some apparent success stories too. But how many more have not

turned out well? Maybe the Lord accepted it because they were doing the best they knew. But let's never think we can disobey God's commands and get by. No amount of human rationalization is going to change the Word of God.

How many present day Christians have married someone who was serving the god of this world or self and, like Israel of old, wound up following them? Paul writes in Gal. 6:7,8, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." It doesn't seem like there is any place where this law holds out more clearly than in the area of marriage.

God has laws for His people to live by, and they are for man's good and happiness; not just to see if man will obey them, not just to test us. The Word says, "Be not unequally yoked." Let's not try to find a way around that law. Let's obey God's laws from the heart and reap happiness now, and in the world to come, life everlasting.

Neil Martin

New Paris, Indiana

This article on Christian marriage by Brother Neil Martin may seem unnecessary to some. But even though we may not have had this warning fifty years ago, in view of what is happening all around us, we need it today. Marriage only in the Lord is not only best, but is the Scriptural way. Some of our older members tell us that years ago many couples were married first and baptized later when they supposedly knew better what discipleship meant. This practice in our background possibly helps explain some of our current reactions. But with marriages crumbling in the world around us, it is well to be reminded of what it takes to have a union that endures for life. Nearly all young people plan to marry, but not all resolve to seek first the Kingdom of God. One

brother commented, "If people are old enough to get married, they are old enough to know whether or not they want to serve the Lord." Another brother said, "If you want to change your standards, raise them." May all our young people weigh well the true values before taking that important step. --L.C.

GOD'S GRACE

Of all the attributes of God, the analysis of His grace is one men frequently disagree on--from believing that grace has mystical powers to deliver us, to where it becomes a mute word that makes it powerless to reveal God's love and mercy extended to the human heart.

The dictionary's definition of grace is *mercy; pardon; an allowance of additional time to a debtor; the free unmerited favor and love of God.*

We believe the action word for grace is *mercy*, and the extended word is *time*. The human heart needs both to find God and to please Him.

From the very beginning, after man fell in the garden, God revealed His grace. If He hadn't, Satan would have defeated God's purpose in creating the world and man, the image of His own likeness. We believe immediate death could have been the verdict. God, in valuing the worth of one soul, reveals the value of His grace.

There was a time in human history when God was so disappointed in man that it repented Him that He had created them. His plans were to destroy them all by a flood that would drown everyone. But there was a man that found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. He was a just man and perfect in his generation, and he walked with God. This incident creates an established adornment of God's grace and man's survival in it. Every living soul that is

alive today is here because of the faithfulness of one man that was found in God's grace. (Gen. 6:8)

The history of man reveals an instinct that proves their ability to relate to grace when they feel their helplessness in their defence to those that have power over them, like Jacob and Esau. (Gen. 33:8)

When Moses was uncertain of God's assurance of His grace, he confronted God. "Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people. And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." Moses still in question, asked, "I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy." (Ex. 33:13,14,18,19)

The questions Moses asked are still questions that are being asked regarding grace. First of all, it is only through faith that we can relate to grace. Therefore our questions about grace can only be known, seen, and experienced through faith. It is only through the window of faith that we see the glory of the Lord and His goodness.

Grace received can never be earned, either from God or our fellowman. When we have a need that we of ourselves cannot supply--and this is the lot of all men--the source then becomes a delight and joy to us. This is what binds us to God and one another; in this we see the glory of the Lord.

Man, in his efforts to make a better world by science and technology, is failing. Although it blesses our physical environment, it is not making a better world.

There is one thing that is getting better. That is the man that has responded to the grace of God in truth. He is the light of the world and is as a shining light that becomes brighter

and brighter unto the perfect day. (Pro. 4:18) Therefore it would be unthinkable that the blessings of God's grace could be experienced outside of His holiness and goodness.

Grace and truth are companions. This is the testimony of Jesus Christ. Only when our focus is on this combination can we truly see Jesus and experience, in present tense, His glory and goodness that is passing by. Only in God's grace can we attain peace and godliness that gives us vision to see the Lord.

This then becomes a process of growth; our present state of knowledge and holiness is not sufficient for tomorrow. "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you." (Phil. 3:13-15)

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." (II Pet. 3:18)

Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

BAPTISM

October 17 Zachary Royer of Elkhart, Indiana
May the Holy Spirit guide him as he joins the family of God.

MARRIAGE

YODER--FOSTER Timothy Yoder and Serena Foster were united in marriage on November 6 at Nappanee, Indiana.

New address: 22962 S.R. 119, Goshen, IN 46526
(219) 534-5705

Kendall Moser's phone number: (219) 875-4433

CHILDREN'S PAGE
Blue Boy Invites Company

"Goodbye! Come on in! Hello! Hello?" Katy giggled as Sarah Beth's little blue parakeet strutted importantly along his perch, then swung upside down, chattering his welcome to the girls who had just come in from the garden. Katy was visiting Sarah Beth for a week, and they had been picking beans.

Suddenly they realized there was someone else in the house. An elderly woman was stumbling toward the front door, her eyes wide and startled as she glanced back at the girls.

"Mommy!" yelled Sarah Beth as she fled out the back door. Katy began to follow, but another cheery "Come on in!" from Blue Boy stopped her. She looked back at the woman, who had stopped and was leaning on her cane, a look of embarrassed confusion on her face.

"I'm sorry! I thought. . . Someone said 'Come in' and I didn't know. . ." The woman's hand flew to her cheek. "I'm sorry!"

Katy couldn't help but giggle again. "Blue Boy, you're a naughty bird!" she scolded.

"Hello?" replied Blue Boy, bobbing with delight at the attention. "Come on in!"

"You thought he was a person?" Katy asked.

"Well, yes. I was walking by, and he said to come in, and so I . . ." Suddenly she was crying. "Maybe my son is right to put me into a nursing home! I'm moving there tomorrow. I was just taking one last walk around my neighborhood. I'll miss it so much!"

"I'll walk with you! May I, please?" she asked Sarah Beth's mama, who had come in while they were talking.

"Me, too?" added Sarah Beth, embarrassed at her fright.

The girls had a wonderful time. Their new friend told them many interesting stories as they walked, and showed them the little home she was leaving. She gave them each a little deep-blue glass bird, and took a third one she had to the nursing home to remind her of Blue Boy and the girls.

The girls didn't realize how much their walk with her meant to her until they visited her at the nursing home, and she introduced them to others as "Those kind little girls I've been telling you about--the ones with the friendly parakeet!"

Martha Wagner
Gettysburg, Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers. (Exodus 6:4)

For Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Canaan was a land they traveled through but did not own. But it was a good land. Let us too, as pilgrims and strangers, be thankful for a good land to travel through on our way to heaven. --L.C.

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

ALL PRAISE TO THEE, ETERNAL LORD

All praise to Thee, eternal Lord,
Clothed in a garb of flesh and blood;
Choosing a manger for Thy throne,
While worlds on worlds are Thine alone.

Once did the skies before Thee bow;
A virgin's arms contain Thee now;
Angels, who did in Thee rejoice,
Now listen for Thine infant voice.

A little child, Thou art our guest,
That weary ones in Thee may rest;
Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth
That we may rise to heaven from earth.

Thou comest in the darksome night
To make us children of the light,
To make us in the realms divine
Like Thine own angels, 'round Thee shine.

All this for us Thy love hath done;
By this to Thee our love is won;
For this we tune our cheerful lays
And shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.

By Martin Luther

Selected by Sarah Martin

from *The One Year Book of Hymns*

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BLESSED REDEEMER

To read the history of Israel and Judah is not pleasant. And yet it is so typical of humanity that we need to read it to see ourselves and to profit from it. Following the judges, serving the kings, chafing under captivity--in all conditions they failed. They were unwilling and even unable to perfectly keep the law of God. The overall picture simply shows the plight of humanity. The fall of Adam was being proven over and over. Here we are--6000 years later--and human nature hasn't changed.

If we had a son who turned against us, we would do all in our power to change that. We would hope and pray and sacrifice to bring him back. But parents are helpless to redirect a wayward son. We are not creators. We ourselves need redemption.

But God is not helpless. He saw His rebellious creatures and moved to make a change. God could destroy them in a flood. He could desert them in battle. He could send them famines and diseases. But all these could only punish--not redeem. God promised redemption through the Redeemer.

Although we have heard this many times, we still marvel that it could be--that God could come in the flesh like one of His creatures--that He could Himself suffer the penalty of the disobedience that brought God's judgement. The beautiful story of the birth of the Saviour in Bethlehem is shadowed by the cross.

" . . . Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost and prophesied saying (in part) . . . And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation

unto his people by the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

This prophecy was spoken of Zacharias's son, John the Baptist, but it told of salvation that John would only introduce. When Jesus came, John said, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."

Dayspring means *daybreak*. A new day was coming--a day of God's tender mercy, of salvation and remission of sins, of light in darkness and death, and of peace. Truly, God is not helpless. These are what man in his sinful nature needs.

A beautiful day is dawning as I write. Daytime is when we have light and can do our work. Psalm 30:5 says, ". . .weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." This new day was to be a day of joy and victory over the nature of man. The angel to the shepherds announced, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Do you get discouraged with the old nature? I do. We are living in a new day when God offers us a new nature--the divine nature, even while we are still in the body. But the old man must be crucified, and we must be born anew. Paul writes, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

The new life in Christ is not a reformation, not a patch-up job, not an overhaul of the worn-out engine--it is a new birth. The new man has joy in good things. He has victory over temptation through the enabling grace of God. God's mercy is on him, and the Holy Ghost is within. Our part is to believe the record God gave of His Son and to yield our lives to His direction.

We are not redeemers, but Jesus is, and our bodies and very lives should be offered to God in such a way that we could glorify Him and benefit our brethren whether it be by life or death, pain or pleasure, joy or sorrow.

In the midst of the activity the world makes of this season, may we find the joy and peace of deliverance from our old nature and radiate the light of the new day to those around us. Christ has redeemed us once for all. --L.C.

HUMBLENESS, CHILDLIKENESS, AND TOGETHERNESS

The story of our Saviour's birth has for good reason captured human minds for centuries--and especially the minds of children and childlike hearts. The lowly story with all its warmth, hope, and miraculous workings of God (that were promised long ago and anxiously waited on) speak of something deeper than the shallowness (so characteristic now) or any other thing that only ends in fruitless despair and emptiness. The lowliness of the Saviour, and the simple, childlike faith that accepts its miraculous wonder, produces a special calm, joyfulness, peace, and togetherness so much that this season is a testimony to the truth that God's grace has appeared to all mankind. In the Saviour, the holy, pure, Promised One, all men are blessed. (Titus 2:11)

It has been said that he who wants to be born of God must be mindful of how Christ's birth took place. And again--the Holy Spirit is like water which seeks the lowest place. The humble are the honored of God. Mary, one of the most honored women in history, was pure and humble and used in a mighty way. In her humility she was abandoned to God's will. And many examples can be given. But the story of the Son of God becoming one of us is special! He became subject to like

passions, shared in our sorrows, and gave His life to teach us poor mortals the infinite depths and truths of God (that we had so horribly corrupted) and redeem us so we could live this new life. What patience; what kindness; ultimate humility! (Heb. 2:9-18)

We are exhorted to let this become our mind. (Phil. 2:5-8) And it is to those who humble themselves that He comes today. To those completely given to Him, He shows His favor. This total humility, renunciation of self and possessions, (wholeheartedly too!) love for the world's blinded citizens but sickness at its evils, produces a simple, childlike faith, utter reliance, and trust in the Heavenly Father. (Matt. 5:25-34; 40; Luke 4:18,19 and many, many more.)

Childlikeness is characterized by simplicity and faith. There is full reliance on the Heavenly Father and His love. No worry, no anxious care for worldly matters trouble the childlike heart. There is complete confidence that His love and power well prevail over all else and can break upon us any moment!

Childlikeness is a spirit of wonder. It is the spirit of the shepherds, rejoicing in the miracle proclaimed to them, hurrying to Bethlehem to greet the newborn Messiah. It is seen in the men from the East who simply believed God works in nature so much that they acted upon their knowledge and set out on a long journey. Just think of it! These men were real observers and even knew meanings in the stars. When we humble ourselves as little children as Christ taught, then this true childlikeness is ours in the Holy Ghost. Matthew Stach, a Moravian brother writing from Greenland in 1733, said it well: "We are willing to venture on Him our lives and all we have!" Childlikeness!

A story is told of two beggars, one crippled, the other blind. Their bitterness only worsened them. But in the service on Christmas Eve (which they helped each other get to) where they

listened to a sermon by Francis of Assissi, they found that Christ, love incarnate, is found in brotherly togetherness.

Lowliness and childlikeness produce joyfulness and peacefulness and unite it into something Christian hearts overflow with: togetherness. It all goes together beautifully. The lonely torch is no longer alone. Now it blazes joyfully in glorious light with other torches, creating **one** brilliant glow. The Spirit, as in Acts 2:4, is poured out, and the believers can do no other than continue in one accord with gladness and singleness of heart serving their **one** Lord! The simple-mindedness to follow Jesus is so strong they share all from an overflowing heart. They can do nothing else. They have beaten their swords to ploughshares, their spears to pruninghooks. (Micah 4:3) The wolf and the lamb dwell together, and the lion eats straw like an ox. (Isa. 11:6-10) This rest is glorious! The message of the angels has become reality in their lives. This gift from heaven is reality to those who know Jesus.

There are so many prophecies of Christ and the Church that could thrill our minds, but hopefully this has been enough to stimulate our minds to think of those good things that make this season so full of wonder, expectation, and joy. The humility of the Saviour must, in a childlike simplicity, become our mind and then the joy and peace in togetherness will be ours in the Holy Spirit.

With the message of the angels, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill to men," we greet you in the name of Him who Zacharias foretold would forgive our sins and light our path and guide us in the way of peace (Luke 68-79), the first and last, the bright and morning star, the long-awaited Promised One!

Michael Harris
Goshen, Indiana

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Blessed Redeemer -L.C.	Dec
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Follow Jesus -L.C.	Feb
Henry Kurtz, Pioneer Brethren Publisher -Sel.	Sep
His Eye Is on the Sparrow -Sel. by Ken Johnson	Apr
Hoeing Weeds -L.C.	Jul
How the Yearly Meetings Were Held -Elder Henry Kurtz	May
Humbleness, Childlikeness, and Togetherness -Michael Harris	Dec
If Ye Continue in My Word -Ron Cable	Oct
In Touch with Our Saviour -L.C.	Sep
Jesus' Love in His Disciples -L.C.	Aug
Lack of Compassion Ends in Tragedy -CAM Newsletter	Apr
Lessons from Job -L.C.	Oct
Marriage in the Lord -Neil Martin	Nov
Mother -L.C.	May
New Year's Thoughts -L.C.	Jan
Questions and Answers -James and Betty Beery	Mar
Responsibility: To Whom Do You Belong? -L.C.	Mar
Shepherd of Tender Youth -Adapted by Jean Martin	Aug
Sleep on Now -L.C.	Apr
So Very Dependent -L.C.	Jun
Thanksgiving -L.C.	Nov
Thanksgiving Day -Sel. by Joseph E. Wagner	Nov
The Birth of Christ -Sel by Joseph E. Wagner	Dec
The Spirit of the Risen Lord -Sel. by Michael Harris	Apr
Wants and Desires--or Needs -John L. Beery	May

POEMS

A Father's Prayer -Lloyd Wagner	Aug
A Prayer for Healing -Lloyd Wagner	Oct
All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord -Sel. by Sarah Martin	Dec
Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know -Sel.	Jul
Come See the Place Where the Lord Lay -J. I. Cover	Apr
Erasers -Sel.	Jun
Everything -Julie Wemken	Mar
Fear Not -L.C.	Jan
Fitting Supply -Sel. by Murray Brillinger	Mar
For Me -Miriam Sauder	Apr
God, Our Refuge -Sel.	Jan
Good Deeds -Sel. from Aunt Bertie's collection	Aug
Has Calamity Assailed Us? -L.C.	Oct
He Who Would Valiant Be -Sel.	Mar
If We Could See Beyond Today -Sel.	Oct
John Wesley's Rule -Sel.	Aug
My Brother -Guy Hootman	Aug
Our Refuge and Our Strength -Jennifer Brandt	Jul
Pentecost -Sel.	May
Pilgrimage -Sel. by Michael Harris	Aug
Praise -L.C.	Nov
Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty -Sel.	Jun
Suffer the Children to Come -Sel.	Feb
Teach Me to Pray -Sel.	Sep
Thanksgiving -Sel.	Nov
The Church Walking with the World -Sel. by Karen Johnson	Sep
The Pilgrim's Farewell -Hymn 357	Sep
Treasures in Heaven -James Beery	May
Who Plants a Seed -Sel.	May
Witness for Jesus -Rhoda Royer	Feb

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD -Kenneth Martin

God's Goodness	Jul
God's Grace	Nov
God's Judgement	Aug
God's Kingdom	Apr
God's Love	Dec
God's Mercy	May
God's Plan	Feb
God's Sovereignty	Mar
God's Witness	Jan
God's Word Spoken	Jun
God's Wrath	Sep

----- FOR YOUTH

Crucified and Resurrected -Jennifer Brandt	Jan
Scattered Peas -Martha Wagner	Feb
What Would Jesus Do? -Regina Bayer	Mar
The Measuring Rod of God -James and Betty Beery	Apr
Tame the Tongue -Shirley L. Frick	May
Power of the Word of God -James and Betty Beery	Jun
There Is No Fear in Love -Linda Frick	Jul
Power of Prayer -James and Betty Beery	Aug
The Power of a Surrendered Life -James and Betty Beery	Sep

----- CHILDREN'S PAGE

At Church -Linda Frick	Jan
What a Little Boy Can Do -Linda Frick	Feb
Joseph's Dream -Linda Frick	Mar
Window Washing -Linda Frick	Apr
This, Too, Shall Pass Away -Linda Frick	May
The Lizard's Tail -Linda Frick	Jun
Katy Be Kind -Martha Wagner	Jul
Loving the Unlovely -Martha Wagner	Aug
Katy, Be Kind to Kitty -Martha Wagner	Sep
Be Kind Even to Pests -Martha Wagner	Oct
Blue Boy Invites Company -Martha Wagner	Nov
More Dreams for Joseph -Linda Frick	Dec

----- DEACON CHOSEN

Larry and Liana Cable Jan25

MEETING HOUSES OF THE OLD BRETHREN

The Wakarusa Old Brethren Meeting House -Harold Royer	Jan
The Salida Church House -Joseph Wagner	Feb
The MiWuk Church -L.C.	Mar
Special Dedication of the MiWuk Church -Marvin Crawmer	Mar

BAPTISMS

Justin, Rosanna, and Heidi Bowser	Jun 6
Melanie and Sharen Royer	Jun 13
Galen, Becky, Laura, and Abigail Miller	Aug 1
Anna Cover	Sep 11
Timothy Yoder	Sep 26
Zachary Royer	Oct 17
Daniel Cover	Nov 21

BIRTHS

Abigail Marcie Crowley	Dec 18, 1998
Samantha Arlene Cable	Jan 13
Jack Ryan Golding	Jan 15
Rozella Grace Arline Savage	Feb 5
Melody Joy Brown	Feb 17
Luke Daniel Cable	Feb 20
Gilbert James Royer	Feb 25
Lana Justine Martin	Mar 1
Eli Eugene Huffman	Mar 1
Joshua Kendall Wagner	Mar 26 Adopted Apr 13
Greta Brooke Martin	Apr 7
Brianna Janelle Brubaker	Apr 17
Ashlynn Joy Royer	May 9
Johanna Elisabeth Harris	Jun 10
Jessica Brook Beery	Jun 22
Cheyenne Chase Morgan Cover	Oct 3, 1997 Adopted Jun 27, 1999
Mark Eldon Cable	Aug 3
Todd Andrew Martin	Nov 27

MARRIAGES

Simon Stalter and Abigail Royer	May 15
Timothy Yoder and Serena Foster	Nov 6

OBITUARY

Pauline Elizabeth (Mason) Flora	Dec 9, 1998
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HYMN HISTORY

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

James Montgomery was born in Scotland in 1771. When he was six years old, both of his parents died. At twelve he failed in school, and at sixteen he was roaming the streets of England trying to sell his verse.

Wandering to Sheffield, the young poet was given a job on the weekly newspaper, the *Sheffield Register*. His hands were hardly soiled with printer's ink when the publisher became involved in political difficulties and fled to America. James Montgomery fell heir to the *Sheffield Register*. He made the periodical a respected organ throughout England. Respected, that is, by all but government officials. James was imprisoned twice for his controversial editorials.

Other than Isaac Watts and Charles Wesley, probably no writer has contributed more to the development of Christian hymns than this unique journalist who championed the cause of the poor and downtrodden, as well as foreign missions.

On December 24, 1816, he ran this poem in his newspaper column:

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship; come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Henry Smart had grown up in an atmosphere of music at his father's organ-building business. He composed the tune "Lancashire" to which the hymns "Lead On, O King Eternal" and "From Greenland's Icy Mountains" are sung, among many other compositions. But he impaired his eyesight by overwork.

Totally blind at fifty-two, Smart composed a tune he called "Regent Square" while his daughter put the notes on paper.

When the tune was set to James Montgomery's poem, it became one of the foremost of Christmas carols.

Jean Martin Nappanee, Indiana

Information from *A Hymn Is Born* by Clint Bonner, 1959 Broadman Press. Used by permission. *The One Year Book of Hymns*. Compiled and edited by Robert K. Brown and Mark R. Norton (c) 1995. Devotions written by William J. Peterson. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

With a spiritual eye, we may discover something very beautiful and instructing in the circumstances connected with the birth of our Saviour. Who would have supposed that the Son of the Highest, who dwelt in the bosom of the great I AM, and surrounded with the numerous host of heaven, would have left His blissful abode in the heavenly world and made His appearance upon the earth in as little and humble a manner as He did? Yet so it was, but not without some instruction to those who would become His followers.

Oh, ye proud and high minded, who would seek the Saviour, look not for Him in high places, neither in popular societies, but go ye and find Him among the meek and humble. Follow not the examples of "wise men" while led by their own imaginations.

But keep the "star" in view,
And find the Saviour too.

Go whither the star would lead you; go whither the gospel directs you, and you shall not be disappointed in your spiritual undertakings.

Come brethren and neighbors and all who desire,
Come all who the Saviour do greatly admire;
Rejoice at the birth of your heaven-born King,
Who grace and salvation to sinners doth bring.
Samuel Kinsey, 1865, from *Pious Companion*
Selected by Joseph E. Wagner

GOD'S LOVE

God, in creating life in His own image, has instilled in it an emotional attribute that is defined as *love*. It is a force in every living soul which creates a desire to physically maintain life. In the rights of self and in its defence, if it were possible, it would eliminate every threat to its physical desires and existence. This compulsion to protect self is evidence of the fear of death and the bondage it holds its subjects in. (Heb. 2:15)

This love affair man has with himself is a bondage man cannot be freed from in his own strength. It is the root problem that separates man from God and one another. It keeps man in a continual struggle for justice and fairness, has nothing to offer but criticism, is unable to see good in others, delights in separating relationships that withstand its position, claiming to preserve the faith.

This obsession man has with himself is a result of the fall of man in Eden. But God, in His great love for us, has made a way for deliverance. But not until we see ourselves in this filth of self can we relate to God's love that is able to deliver us.

God, in proving to man His ability to deliver us from self love, became as one of us; in a picture of self-denial He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to this earth. In Himself He had all authority, power, dominion, and might, was co-creator of the universe, and could have called twelve legions of angels to His aid. But His love for us was stronger than His love for Himself.

When Jesus began to vindicate Himself through miraculous powers, this brought Him honor and fame from the multitudes. These powers revealed are now what makes all men accountable to who He is.

When He began to reveal the purpose of His mission and that the human heart is sick and that not until the heart desires to serve and bless others at the expense of self, has it won

victory over self; this is the mind of Christ and the joy of the Lord experienced.

To overcome self love is a salvation requirement. "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, *yea, and his own life also*, he cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:26)

"And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, *shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life*." (Matt. 19:29)

"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. (Mark 8:35)

The great Physician observes the human heart and has diagnosed its problem, and prescribed the remedy and dispensed it freely. Now if we take it as prescribed, we have the assurance of victory over self and the "sin that does so easily beset us."

Kenneth Martin

Nappanee, Indiana

BAPTISM

November 21 Daniel Cover of Tuolumne, California

May the blessing of God be over the life of this young brother.

BIRTH

MARTIN - A son, Todd Andrew, born November 27, to Andrew and Marla Martin of Nappanee, Indiana.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Glenn Wells (601) 785-9515

CHILDREN'S PAGE

More Dreams for Joseph

The little boy Joseph who lives today was having more dreams. He was becoming troubled about why he was having all these dreams.

One morning he was telling Mother the dream he'd had in the night. "I was walking around outside and an angel was walking with me. We walked around the house, but it really wasn't like our house. Then suddenly the angel went up to heaven," he related.

"What does this mean? Why am I dreaming like this?" he asked in a worried voice.

Mother wondered, too, why her son was having so many dreams of this kind. She answered Joseph, "God wants you to know that He is with you, and His angels are watching over you. That's a comfortable feeling."

Satisfied for the moment, Joseph ate his bowl of cereal and brushed his teeth. A few minutes later, he peacefully boarded the school bus for another happy day of learning his school lessons.

The Joseph in the Bible had dreams, too. When he told some of them to his brothers, they became more angry with him than they had been before, and very jealous as well, because the dreams indicated that this younger brother of theirs would rule over them some day. God worked things out so that this very anger and jealousy was what got Joseph into Egypt where he eventually was the ruler over everyone in the land, including his brothers.

Sometimes God uses dreams to prepare people for the work He wants them to do, or to give them an inkling of what will happen in the future. In today's Joseph's case, we will have to

wait and see how the Lord chooses to work in his life and what his dreams mean.

Linda Frick
Gettysburg, Ohio

NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks so much for the love and support that you all have shown for our family. We pray that the Lord will grant each and every one a special blessing for the kindness you have shown.

In Christian love,
Joe, Laura, and Craig Cover

PILGRIM POINTERS

Pilgrim, look up; you are called to the sky,
Called to meet Jesus in heaven by and by.
Lift up your head and strengthen you knees;
You know that your Father each temptation sees. --L.C.

THE PILGRIM
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